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CONTADORA SUPPORT MINISTERS TO MEET 5, 6 APRIL

PA201946 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1931 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Caracas, 20 Mar (EFE) -- The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and the Latin American Support Group will meet on the Panamanian Island of Contadora on 5 and 6 April, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi announced in Caracas today.

The meeting of foreign ministers was initially scheduled for 21 March but was postponed in view of the many commitments of the foreign ministers.

Political media have hinted that at April's meeting the foreign ministers will persist in their efforts to secure detente in the region and will ratify the Caraballeda Declaration.

VENEZUELAN ENVOY ADDRESSES OAS MEETING

PA201949 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Today, at a meeting of the OAS Permanent Council, Venezuela's ambassador reaffirmed, in the name of the Contadora Group, the obligation of all states to resolve their disagreements through peaceful means. This reaffirmation was made at a time when the U.S. Congress is debating military aid to the Nicaraguan anti-Sandinist contras.

Venezuelan Ambassador Edilberto Moreno asked for the floor when the meeting reached the "miscellaneous" part of the routine council meeting's agenda. He stated, in the name of the Contadora Group and its Support Group, "the obligation of all states to resolve their disagreements through exclusively peaceful means and to refrain from resorting to the direct or indirect use of force."

Without mentioning the debate taking place in the U.S. House of Representatives, Moreno insisted that the Central American conflict "must be resolved (...) with strict adherence to international law."

He noted that the Caraballeda document and the Punta del Este declaration approved in Venezuela and Uruguay by the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group (Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama) and its Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay) "clearly define the permanent bases for peace in Central America and list the necessary actions to ensure their implementation."

Moreno said: "We still are hopeful that all OAS members will adapt their conduct to those bases and that they will strictly fulfill the obligations imposed by international law."

Edgard Parrales, the Nicaraguan ambassador to the OAS, spoke today following Venezuelan Ambassador Moreno to reiterate his government's willingness to accept the Contadora Group's proposals.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES REAGAN SPEECH WITH U.S. ENVOY

Communique Issued

PY202129 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2112 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Mar (TELAM) -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry this afternoon issued an official communique stating that U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz had been summoned to the ministry. The document states that Foreign Policy Under Secretary Jorge Mauhourat met with the U.S. envoy and asked him for an explanation of the remarks about Argentina that President Ronald Reagan made during a speech on 16 March. The Foreign Ministry is now awaiting further information on this issue. It is worth pointing out that using its own channels, Argentine diplomacy has been doing its best in the United States to obtain a further explanation of President Reagan's statement. Foreign Minister Dante Caputo was notified of this statement on the eve of his departure for Europe to negotiate with EEC authorities.

Communique Amended

PY202229 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2158 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Mar (TELAM) -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry has amended the official press communique that it released this afternoon on the meeting that U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz held with Foreign Policy Under Secretary Jorge Mauhourat. The final text, which makes it clear that Ambassador Ortiz was summoned by the Foreign Ministry, states that the summons was prompted by the concern of the Interior Ministry, which wishes to deny that there could be any kind of guerrilla activities within the national territory, as one could conclude from the remarks President Reagan made in his speech on 16 March. The foreign policy under secretary, Ambassador Jorge Mauhourat, met with the U.S. envoy and asked him for further information on the issue. The Foreign Ministry is now awaiting additional data concerning the matter, the Foreign Ministry communique concludes.

Envoy's Evidence Not 'Concrete'

PY202345 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2258 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Mar (TELAM) -- A reliable Foreign Ministry source has reported that U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz, who was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to explain claims that guerrilla groups are being trained in Argentina to operate in Nicaragua [as received], did not supply concrete evidence of this claim.

The U.S. ambassador apparently merely showed some photographs of a recent meeting of Revolutionary Peronist Militants, among which there may have been a few former Montoneros. The ambassador also pointed out that one of the members of the Nicaraguan cabinet is Argentine. Ambassador Ortiz was today summoned by Foreign Policy Under Secretary Jorge Mouhourat on instructions from acting Foreign Minister Antonio Troccoli [also interior minister] (Dante Caputo is currently at the headquarters of the EEC), who first consulted with President Raul Alfonsin, in order to ask Ortiz for an explanation of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's recent remarks.

LABOR MINISTER BARRIONUEVO ADDRESSES NATION

PY200211 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Address to nation by Labor Minister Hugo Barrioneuvo on 19 March -- recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, good evening.

As the labor and social welfare minister, I will note, on behalf of the Argentine Government, a few considerations on the social and labor situation and will outline the main guidelines of the short- medium- and long-term policy in this field. The major accomplishment, that no sensible person can deny, is that after 2 years of constitutional government considerable progress has been made in the political and socioeconomic fields.

The reinstatement of democracy has allowed the Argentines to coexist amid respect for the law and pluralism, leaving behind long years of authoritarianism and political strife. The government has been making sure that these principles remained in effect and is proud of its commitment, for it sees the country moving forward toward the strengthening of democratic institutions.

The economic reform enacted in June 1985 was a full-fledged demonstration of the nation's will to rebuild the foundation for its coexistence and to eradicate the scourge of inflation, a formidable obstacle to social peace and economic recovery. The efforts of all Argentines have permitted the reduction of inflation to its current low levels at a comparatively reasonable social cost. Now we can start thinking about the future of our country within a framework of stability which is the necessary basis for the attainment of permanent well-being and growth.

The workers have made a decisive contribution to this endeavor. The fact that we are now able to look forward is due, to a large extent, to the spirit of sacrifice and patriotism of those who have displayed their maturity by setting an example of understanding in the face of the crisis the country is going through. The complex economic, social and labor status quo that we encountered upon taking office prompted the government to look for mechanisms and forums for dialogue with workers and businessmen. Although these attempts at reconciling positions, interests and expectations did not lead to any agreements, they have taught us positive lessons which we must use to our advantage.

I will divide my explanation into two main sections. In the first section on labor reform, I will explain the basic constitutional, political and legal guidelines of the system of labor relations, while in the second section, dealing with the income policy, I will outline a proposal for the evolution of salaries in 1986. These basic guidelines and proposals for the two issues, far from closing any debate, will seek to stimulate dialogue and the quest for democratic consensus among all social sectors.

The reform of the system of labor relations

Our country's system of labor relations, which has been and is still being harshly criticized by workers and businessmen, has become inappropriate, obsolete, and contradictory. We have a system designed for times of prosperity and for coping with the requirements of the first industrial revolution, and, this being the case, the system can hardly handle the requirements of the economic crisis or the challenges of the technological revolution.

Our system is contradictory because it contains elements of authoritarian extraction that go against labor union freedom and help repress conflicts and elements of paternalistic extraction through which the state plays a leading role, to the detriment of the collective autonomy of workers and employers. Labor relations develop within the framework of an overall philosophy of economic isolationism which is unsuitable for the current phase in which we must redefine our role on the international markets.

The system we have inherited has given rise to factional or corporative approaches which view social justice as the sum of each sector's privileges. In fact, this situation is totally at odds with the spirit of solidarity that we advocate. This system of labor relations is totally outdated, and it is necessary to make changes as soon as possible. During these 2 first years of democracy we have not managed to promote a thoughtful analysis or an in-depth debate on this issue, nor have there been coherent suggestions for reforming the system. It would seem that the time has come to overcome this negative status quo and to launch the reform, taking into consideration that this will not be accomplished by replacing a few laws since the main objective is to change structures, behavior and approaches of people operating at different levels in the world of labor and production affairs.

The government will subject the amendment of the labor policy to the following four main objectives which it seeks to fulfill through dialogue and social participation:

1. Change and democratize labor relations;

2. Update the labor policy's framework, that is, repeal the measures of an authoritarian origin and those which have become inadequate, without implying the automatic reimplementation of previous measures;

3. Define labor instruments in keeping with the economic policy and the modernization of our productive apparatus; and

4. Make the Labor and Social Security Ministry more efficient.

In sum, the defined guidelines seek to grant a concrete content, in the labor relations field, to the principles listed by the president of the Republic when he proposed a democratic pact last December. In other words, we intend to reorganize the system in order to make it compatible with a democracy in which everyone participates, with the spirit of solidarity, and with the overall modernization plan in which the Argentine nation is engaged.

First, in view of the need to synthesize the purpose of the change proposed by the government, I would say that it seeks to enhance the role of social autonomy in relation to the excessive state intervention. This process entails and encourages businessmen and workers to act in a responsible manner.

In the second place, it should be made quite clear that this change is not directed against the labor unions or enterprises. Quite the contrary, we want to define the role that the two social sectors must play in a democratic society. This new definition will bring about the balance of power within the society, putting an end to changing attitudes that only lead us to antilabor union measures and labor outbursts, rationalizing the labor conflicts.

In the third place, the change will seek to do away with inflexibilities that only hinder the development of the economy and will grant it the necessary flexibility currently required for technological development and dynamics of the market.

Naturally, this change from inflexibility to flexibility will not entail a return to obsolete liberalisms that end up concealing abuses, but is rather designed at broadening the guarantees contained in contracts based on collective bargaining.

The government by no means has the intention or desire to undertake this complex task on its own. Therefore, it extends an invitation for an open and sincere dialogue and voices its willingness to discuss the "guidelines" and the instruments of the change with the workers, the businessmen, the political forces, and the experts on the subject. At the time of implementing the changes the government, naturally, will strictly respect the role of Congress where it will even propose a deep-rooted debate regarding the content of this reform.

The labor and enterprise organizations now have the historic opportunity of actively participating of a process of undoubtable importance. The government summons the Argentine labor unions to assume their responsibilities and debate the reform with concrete proposals that are free of demagoguery which is not proper for a mature labor sector such as the one that the workers, the government, and the entire nation require.

The government also makes an appeal for a responsible attitude on the part of businessmen and representative organizations that must give up the bad habits created over long years of state intervention in labor relations. The new system requires that the enterprises become aware of the new democratic reality and that they should find through dialogue and negotiations the most adequate elements to overcome labor conflicts. We are certain that the society expects our businessmen to manage their enterprises properly, to overcome the ineffective practices, and the adequate organization of the elements that belong to the productive process.

Income Policy

During the last socioeconomic conference in December 1985, the government announced its intention to review the income policy during the first three months of 1986. Not long ago, the president of the nation recalled that commitment by pointing out that the government would draw up a "proposal designed at maintaining the salary purchasing power during 1986 and that would be compatible with the general guidelines of the Austral Plan. Today the government is able to make concrete proposals which are in keeping, and it is almost redundant to say, with the framework of the harsh requirements imposed by the crisis and the need to consolidate the anti-inflationary achievements. A responsible attitude prompts us to bring the income policy within the framework of the limitations of our economy, but this must consider the principles of solidarity in order to fairly distribute the efforts we must make in this adjustment phase that will allow us to grow.

It is appropriate to recall here that when the 1986 draft budget was outlined, these unifying principles prompted the government to increase social expenditures by 5.5 percent. There are four basic criteria of the new wage policy:

1. Definition of salary guidelines with yearly projections as a way to overcome more or less unexpected adjustments, which only serve to create uncertainty;

2. Progressive and controlled withdrawal of state interventionism in setting overall and uniform wages to encourage businessmen and workers to assume specific responsibilities and commitments;
3. Upgrading the principle of social solidarity while defining guidelines and recommending techniques for setting wages; and
4. Cancelling the method of wage review based on previous inflation rates, replacing it with a method based on projected inflation rate, with the conviction that this change will contribute to discouraging spiraling inflation based on wages.

Let us now review some concrete operational criteria:
1. Minimum survival wage: Taking into account the actual possibilities of our economy and the need to curb undesired effects on the employment rate, in 1986 the minimum survival wage will grow in conformity with the inflationary hypothesis established in the national budget;
2. Guaranteed social wage: Beginning in April 1986 a guaranteed social wage will be established for all full-time workers included in the labor contract law, excluding family allowances and overtime. The resulting difference between the last normal and usual payment and the new guaranteed social wage will be paid as a single monthly supplementary payment, which will not serve as a reference or as a basis for calculation for any legal or conventional compensatory or service payment or for any other type of services rendered by the worker;
3. Wages of personnel subject to collective bargaining: The government reasserts its willingness to promote negotiations on a tripartite basic agreement [acuerdo marco] with the participation of top representatives from the workers and the employers.

Such a basic agreement should define criteria for negotiating wages within limits based on projected inflation rates. The parties would agree on their 1986 wage reviews within those limits.

Should this basic agreement fail, the government will assume the responsibility of enacting a decree establishing not straight wage increases but guidelines for the negotiations the parties will have to undertake.

In both cases -- the basic agreement and the decree -- the reviews will be based on the projected inflation rate, including mechanisms to guarantee that the overall purchasing power of wages will be maintained throughout 1986.

The signatories of the basic agreement or the government, as the case may be, will establish the appropriate mechanisms to ensure that the accords reached will be within the wage limits and avoid overflows caused by pressure or irresponsible attitudes. In every case the accords reached within these guidelines will imply a double commitment:
A. The businessmen must respect the government price policy;
B. The workers must not resort to strong-arm measures in connection with the agreed-upon issues as long as the agreement is in effect and they must sign the appropriate social peace clause.

Salary accords will go into effect only after their approval by a tripartite committee if it is a basic agreement or an interministerial commission in the case of a reference decree.

4. Centralized public administration personnel: The government will make the appropriate adjustments to take care of the estimated inflation provided for in the state budget for 1986 within the framework of solidarity-oriented measures, enhanced productivity and efficiency, and lower absenteeism rates.

The public service secretariat will be charged with drawing up a new general grade structure that will take care of career requirements, hiring and promotions on merit, and higher wages. The transfer to the new grade structure will be gradual. It will depend on the evolution of the current labor force and the increase of revenues. Suitable union participation in the debate and implementation of the new grade structure is provided for.

5. Social welfare benefits: The national welfare system distributes among its beneficiaries all of its revenues, and it also receives a significant contribution from the state, instead of the 50 percent that employers had to supply prior to 1980.

However, all these revenues are not enough to pay satisfactory pensions to all pensioners and retirees. Thus, the government has approached this problem realistically and very soon now it will be prepared to propose a draft reform based on three principles:

1. Generation of greater genuine resources for the system.

2. Widespread social assistance benefits and a solidarity redistribution of the abovementioned greater resources.

3. Participation in the control of the management of the social welfare system.

The government will adjust the pensions of retirees and pensioners in keeping with the estimated inflation provided for in the state budget for 1986. The minimum pensions will grow at the same rate the minimum survival wages will.

Participation of social sectors: Modern democracy does not limit itself to classic patterns for the people's participation in public affairs. The democratic states have developed various participation mechanisms through which the citizens and the organizations that epitomize social pluralism assume different roles and responsibilities. The government will promote and increase participation by workers and employers' organizations in various sectors of the labor field. The government proposes two fields of participation, both of which are in keeping with the International Labor Organization criteria:

1. On one hand, what we could call "institutional participation" that is, the presence of representatives of workers and employers in organizations in charge of drawing up statistics, carrying out studies and investigations, controlling the granting of social and security services linked to employment, unemployment, and professional training.

2. On the other hand, participation in certain public enterprise creating institutional channels that will expedite the exercise of the right to information and implementing consultation mechanisms for taking certain decisions in the public enterprise sector.

Normalization of the General Labor Confederation [CGT]

From the beginning of the democratization process, we have deemed it necessary to normalize the institutional life of labor organizations. This is why the bill that became Law 23.071 was drawn up allowing the gradual normalization of first, second, and third degree enterprises. There are only a few left that still have to complete their electural processes.

This encourages us to begin the necessary steps that will soon allow the normalization of the General Labor Confederation, respecting, as is proper for a democratic state of law, the participation principles, the correspondent legal framework, and the workers' right to have autonomous organizations. The government hopes that those organizations, whose responsibility it is counting on, will have answers that will be appropriate for this historical moment, that will not be inspired only be sectorial concerns and that it will not merely cite the social aspirations we all share. The government is certain this will not be the case. However, it will not slacken in its duty of governing, and if it is faced with a lack of coherent proposals, it will implement the social policies based on the aforementioned guidelines.

These are the considerations and proposals I wanted to disclose tonight. We are aware of the expectations that the announcements created. Moreover, we are aware that our people are mature enough to understand what we have really stated tonight. Debate is open. The government is willing to engage in dialogue with the workers and businessmen who, with their responsible contributions, will enrich the proposals and allow their prompt implementation.

We are convinced that this is possible by viewing the problems in an overall context. We cannot continue practicing sectorial discussions because once again we will be taking the wrong path. The challenge has been issued. We believe in the workers and businessmen's capacity for dialogue. The time has come to adopt tools in labor relations that will allow us to close the door to the past. Everything is possible with will. The country is waiting. Thank you very much.

UBALDINI SAYS 25 MARCH STOPPAGE STILL SCHEDULED

PY201349 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2317 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (TELAM) -- After listening to the official proposal by Labor Ministry Hugo Barrionuevo, CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini today confirmed the stoppage and mobilization scheduled for 25 March, deeming that there are not sufficient reasons to give up this measure of force. Ubaldini said that there are not sufficient reasons because no proposal has been made, and the stoppage is still scheduled for 25 March. He added, however, that the final decision will be made by the CGT Executive Board.

He said that there is not even a reason for calling a national plenary session, which is the only authority with power to suspend the stoppage. We have only received guidelines and no figures whatsoever as far as salaries are concerned, said Ubaldini, who did not want to go into detail about the government proposal because, he said, it will be the people who pass judgment on it after the labor minister delivers his message over radio and television tonight. Ubaldini announced a press conference to be held at the CGT office tomorrow at 1700, when the CGT will publicly state its position on the government proposal.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHILE

PY201630 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has said that Bolivia will act seriously and with moderation and that it will adopt a positive negotiating stance if Chile shows willingness to negotiate Bolivia's landlocked situation.

The minister made this statement in response to repeated questions from reporters, who pointed out to him that Chile has released a series of official statements, some of them by President Augusto Pinochet.

"We cannot make any comment because we have not even begun to negotiate," Bedregal said.

But if such negotiations begin, he went on, we will discard the idea that Bolivia has "an inferiority complex in these negotiations. The government does not have that sort of complex. We will negotiate on the basis of terms that will be clear and categorical from all viewpoints, because we shall not be asking anyone to do us a favor and we shall not be intimidating anyone either. This is the real course of our foreign policy."

"Bolivian foreign policy is based on a pluralistic approach toward all nations, no matter what their ideological leanings," he concluded.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON REDUCTION OF COCA CROP

PY191224 Paris AFP in Spanish 1505 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 18 Mar (AFP) -- Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy today stressed that the Bolivian Government refuses to apply drastic measures, such as the use of chemicals, to reduce coca plantations. Barthelemy stated that the previous government headed by Hernan Siles Zuazo had promised the United States that it would reduce the plantations by 4,000 hectares, but it did not comply with this commitment.

He explained that President Victor Paz Estenssoro has started to implement the agreement on the reduction of coca plantations, but that the means and the funds to comply with the commitments that have been made to the campesinos to guarantee the provision of electricity, water, schools, and other services are insufficient.

He also highlighted the fact that the U.S. Government and Congress have the sovereign right to make decisions regarding aid for Bolivia, but Bolivia is a sovereign country when it comes to implementing policies that bear on its own development.

In Washington, Senator Paula Hawkins has proposed to Congress the suspension of economic aid to Bolivia until our country clearly reduces the levels of coca leaf production, the basic raw material for the production of cocaine.

INTELLIGENCE CHIEF SAYS REAGAN REMARKS 'UNFOUNDED'

PY201435 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] Brasilia (ESTADO) -- General Ivan de Souza Mendes, chief of the National Intelligence Service, yesterday told President Sarney that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's contention that Brazilian "extremists" have received weapons from Nicaragua for actions in Brazil, is unfounded. The statement was made by presidential spokesman Fernando Cesar Mesquita, who said that the Brazilian Government has no official information on the report and that it is awaiting clarification from the U.S. Government. Mesquita also denied a report attributed to Maranhao Governor Luiz Rocha about the presence of Sandinists in the municipal district of Arame.

Itamaraty expects to put a full stop to the U.S. attempts to involve Brazil in the Nicaraguan case if another note of clarification is received from the State Department. The first request for explanations was made 20 days ago when Secretary of State George Shultz charged that Brazilians were receiving military training in Nicaragua. This time Itamaraty expects to receive another note of apology stating that there was no malice in the "mistake."

Senator Fabio Lucena, government deputy leader in the Senate, also protested Reagan's remarks and announced that he plans to propose a bill requiring congressional authorization to allow personnel of the Brazilian Armed Forces to leave the country.

NOBISTOR CAPTAIN ADMITS KNOWLEDGE OF ILLEGAL CARGO

PY201731 Paris AFP in Spanish 0036 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 19 Mar (AFP) -- The commander of the Panamanian-flag carrier Nobistor, Argentine citizen Eduardo Gilardoni, confirmed here today that he was illegally transporting Argentine weapons for groups opposed to the current Ghanaian Government.

The captain's statements were confirmed by U.S. citizen John Dee Early, a Vietnam war veteran, who had been hired with seven other U.S. citizens to guard the weapons until they reached their destination. The ship belongs to the Geo Matter enterprise in Buenos Aires.

Gilardoni and Early made these statements during a press conference at the Federal Police station in Rio de Janeiro, where they have been held under arrest since Friday, March 14.

Gilardoni, who has been working for the shipping company for the past 6 years, said that Geo Matter had been hired by a representative of the Ghanaian Defense Ministry, allegedly named Godfried Ossey, to transport the secret shipment of weapons acquired in Argentina to Accra.

Gilardoni explained that the eight U.S. citizens were on his vessel as temporary crewmen because the Argentine sailing regulations do not allow the transport of passengers on that type of vessel.

Although he only met them on the day of departure, 1 March, in Buenos Aires port, they all carried the required documents, that is, they had a visa to remain in Argentine territory. Their only crime was to travel as crewmen.

When asked whether he knew what type of cargo he was transporting and who it was destined for, Gilardoni said that he and his company had been deceived.

The captain said that he found out the truth through the person responsible for guarding the cargo, John Dee Early, who received a call over the ship's radio explaining to him that the weapons were not, as everyone believed, for the Ghanaian Government but for a group of dissidents. Gilardoni then explained that it was decided to enter the Brazilian port to seek instructions from Buenos Aires as to what to do with the shipment. That is when the Brazilian Federal police seized them.

U.S. citizen Early, for his part, confirmed Gilardoni's statements and added that he was hired in his own country by Ted Bishop, who identified himself as a representative of the Ghanaian Defense Ministry. Bishop paid Early's group's fares to Buenos Aires, where he also made contact with Mr. Ossey, who chartered the Nobistor.

In Buenos Aires he learned that the cargo had been acquired from Military Industries, the Argentine Army's arms manufacturing plant, part of the Defense Ministry. Early said that the shipment of 6 tons of weapons contained light machine guns, guns, revolvers, rubber boats, ammunitions, and combat gear . Early said that the group was also hired to teach the recipients of the cargo how to use the weapons which, they believe, were for the Ghanaian military and police forces that are being modernized.

Early also said that he is an aircraft pilot and a freelance journalist.

Gilardoni and Early confirmed that the engine of the Nobistor had been slightly damaged, but this would not prevent it from sailing. They had decided to enter the Brazilian port and request instructions from their company when they found out that the shipment was illegal.

Captain Gilardoni ended by stating that he thought that the ship had been intercepted at the request of the Ghanaian Embassy in Brazil, which had become aware that the cargo was destined for groups that oppose the current Accra government.

FUNARO DISCUSSES LIFTING ECONOMIC FREEZE

PY201656 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpts] If Brazil manages to keep the inflation rate at zero during the coming months, the government will be able to start thinking about ending the economic freeze. However, this will have to be carried out gradually in every sector. This statement was made by Finance Minister Dilson Funaro during the debate on the economic package with senators of the Democratic Alliance.

Funaro noted that the program for a zero inflation rate is designed mainly to allow the economy to function freely. Therefore, the government will end the freeze as soon as possible.

Minister Funaro stated that during the next 3 months the consumers and the entire productive apparatus will enjoy price stability. This fact added to the continuation of economic growth, and internal interest rates compatible with international rates will create the ideal framework for the government to start the unfreezing process.

The finance minister said that the agricultural policy is being fully reviewed and that in 30 days, the government should announce the new tools to encourage this sector. He said that these tools will allow the farmers to get ready for new harvests.

DEL VALLE OPTIMISTIC AFTER MEETING U.S. ENVOY

PY202033 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has stated that the meeting he held last night with U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes left him optimistic. The minister said that, from his point of view, he is satisfied because we managed to maintain normal relations between two traditionally friendly countries.

U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes visited the Foreign Ministry this morning to bid farewell to Minister del Valle before departing today for Antarctica until 30 March. Regarding the U.S. resolution accusing Chile of human rights violations, Barnes explained that he had already discussed this subject with the Chilean authorities.

Commenting on the UN human rights report on Chile made by special UN observer Fernando Volio, the special afairs ambassador of the Chilean Foreign Ministry, Mario Calderon, said that Volio had treated the subject objectively but that the UN Commission had focused on it from an essentially political point of view. Calderon said that the report (?ignores) the fact that there is an institutionalization process under way in Chile that is making considerable progress.

In conclusion, Calderon said that our country will continue cooperating with the UN Human Rights Commission as long as the UN observer stays within the limits of his duties.

DEMONSTRATIONS, DISTURBANCES CONTINUE IN SANTIAGO

PY210236 [Editorial Report] Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 20 March carries a series of reports on the demonstrations in Santiago connected with the opposition drive for democracy.

Giving a relayed report from downtown Santiago, Mirna Concha states that "nearly 50 people are blocking traffic at the intersection of Alameda and San Antonio Streets after marching up San Antonio Street to the San Francisco Church." The reporter adds that "the Carabineros have appeared on the scene and are attempting to disperse the demonstrators, but they keep returning."

The radio announcer then reports from the studio that "according to the last police report on the incidents, 60 people have been arrested and are being held at several Santiago precinct houses." He adds that "the Carabineros have reported that most of the detainees were arrested for disrupting public order" and that "they will be set free over the next few hours after their addresses are checked." According to the announcer, "incidents are continuing between demonstrators and the police on several streets in downtown Santiago and in other districts of the city." He adds that "no injuries have been reported."

Reporter Mirna Concha then relays more information on the incidents in downtown Santiago. She says that "most businesses closed at sunset" and that "tear gas is still floating in the air, and the water cannon truck is still patrolling the area, dispersing groups of demonstrators who are shouting antigovernmental slogans." She concludes her report by stating that "an as yet undetermined number of people have been arrested in the past few hours in downtown Santiago" and that "some shop owners have lit fires in an attempt to neutralize the tear gas."

REAGAN OPPOSES COFFEE PACT; BETANCUR BLAMED

PA201812 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Mar 86 p 4 A

[Editorial: "Reagan's Reply"]

[Text] We reiterate our disagreement with the way President Betancur has been indirectly complicating the future of the coffee pact. No Colombian -- especially not one who knows about the subject -- is unaware of the importance of the pact and its worthlessness if it is not supported by the United States. With a U.S. withdrawal there would be a catastrophic price war. For that reason, what has been done to prevent this is too little. We Colombians have an obligation to convince the U.S. Government to remain in the pact and to help defend prices in the future.

The desire to seek the paths of peace in Central America is very noble, but there are ways of exerting influence to achieve it. We agree with our colleagues from EL ESPECTADOR when they signal the danger of implementing foreign policy outside certain channels that have the privacy of diplomacy. Mr Reagan is not an easy man to cross [no es de facil acceso] and he would not like President Betancur's statements on U.S. Government assistance for the enemies of the Sandinist regime. Reagan is determined to ask for a favorable vote in Congress on supporting the contras. The Colombian president's statements to a U.S. newspaper were intended, above all, to counteract President Reagan's arguments. That is why President Reagan promptly replied and, to the alarm of Colombians, declared himself opposed to the extension of the coffee agreement.

Skillfully, the members of the Contadora Group have placed the blame on President Betancur's head. None of his counterparts comes to Nicaragua's defense as decisively as he does. We fear that our powerful northern neighbor will demand payment. The trouble is that the "payers" will probably be the next government and certainly all of the Colombian people. Nothing would be more prudent than to avoid this fight and to think, above all considerations, of the next government. It will have to bear the burden of whatever President Betancur does in the last months of his administration.

With every passing moment, it seems more important, especially for Colombia, to strengthen the OAS and from there to stage the fight to defend President Betancur's thesis. This would be the best way to throw off the bridle that could bring us so much trouble in the near future. Despite its defects, the OAS remains the best instrument for resolving the region's problems. That is the path that Contadora should have taken from the outset. To replace the OAS is neither easy nor advisable. There is still time. We hope that the president and his foreign minister will do that excellent favor for his successor, for the country's benefit.

M-19 COMMUNIQUE ON DEATH OF ALVARO FAYAD

PA201244 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Mar 86 p 6 B

[By Ramiro Castellanos A. and Angel Molina B.]

[Excerpt] Following is an M-19 communique:

The top command of the M-19 informs its militants and national public opinion of the death of Alvaro Fayad Delgado last night at a residence in the Quinta Paredes neighborhood, where we were studying the critical situation that our movement is facing. The M-19 has suffered another misfortune with the death of Fayad, who founded, organized, and led our movement.

As on previous occasions, we inform our militants and the Colombian public in general that the top M-19 leadership has taken on a great and serious moral commitment toward our top commander Jaime Bateman Cayon, who, after death, is remembered by true revolutionaries with the slogan "Commander Pablo, we will keep our promise." After the deeply felt death of Commander Ivan Marino Ospina, our guerrilla organization adopted a hard line, moving away from the cease-fire agreements signed with the government in 1984, a position that led the M-19 to declare a frontal war against the repressive forces of the current fake, Belisario Betancur.

If we make a disheartened analysis, we can simply say that the M-19 will continue to be implacable in its efforts until the end. Because of this we are certain that victory is nearby and that we will not betray our revolutionary cause since the revolutionary panorama has been cleared with the death of he [Ivan Marino Ospina] who, inefficiently and with a lack of military and tactical ability, but with deep-rooted ideological sectarianism and personal ambition, took over as commander of the movement in 1984.

Upon taking over the command of the M-19, he blamed Carlos Pizarro Leon Gomez for the death of more than 100 fighters, because Pizarro and the deceased Fayad had led them to their graves, taking with them in a very short time the movement's greatness and solidity. As the organization's sole commander, he invited all of the militants to that united in the slogan "Commander Jaime Bateman, we will keep our promise," we would accept this challenge and adopt an attitude that would put an end to our mistakes, and accept the challenge with a total sense of self-criticism and with revolutionary honesty.

It is also a part of our mission to not cover up our mistakes, regardless of who has made them. The revolutionary movement born of the braveness of our Commander Pablo will continue courageously facing the enemy, confronting our mistakes among ourselves, confronting every trend, group, or armed force that on the people's behalf commits crimes against the people.

Companeros of the M-19 and people of Colombia: Our values have an axis and a direction, and we must be united so that our banners can remain truly clean and authentic. "Commander Pablo, we will keep our promise."

By the top commander of the M-19, Gustavo Arias Londono; Bogota, 14 March 1986

CLASHES BETWEEN AMERICA BATTALION, ARMY CONTINUE

PA201350 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] In Valle Department, clashes between guerrillas of the decimated America Battalion and the Army have increased in the urban area of Cali. The public order situation, so precarious in Cali in recent days, has claimed new lives. A metropolitan policeman and a guerrilla of the M-19 died when a group of rebels tried to attack a police post in Juanchito, a well known Colombian resort. The subversive's goal was to dynamite the bridge over the Cauca River in that important resort area. Police courageously attacked the guerrillas who were riding in a Willys four-wheel drive vehicle. They were carrying dynamite and all kinds of explosive materials used to commit the various crimes that have been recently committed in Cali. In (Turibillo), a small municipality 68 km south of Cali, the situation was more violent. According to initial reports issued by the authorities, an undetermined number of troops and guerrillas were killed. The rebels held up the Caja Agraria, the only local bank, and fled. Apparently the M-19 is carrying out a counteroffensive in various locations seeking to relieve pressure on the survivors of the battalion of 200 men who attacked Cali in an operation which the military sector and guerrilla desertors described as crazy.

FEBRES CORDERO PRESENTS EVIDENCE AGAINST VARGAS

PA201830 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0103 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Speech to the nation by President Leon Febres Cordero; live or recorded -- broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] ...democracy and that maintained all the Ecuadoran citizens extremely concerned [words indistinct] unity of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces [words indistinct] insubordination, conspiracy, and armed revolt of the former commanding general of the Air Force, have shown the country how deeply rooted the constitutional principles are and their dedication to the maintenance of their sacred and patriotic duties.

The maturity of the great national majority has also been shown. It has accompanied and supported the government in overcoming this delicate matter. The essential forces of the Ecuadoran homeland, its church, the [word indistinct] legislators, the unions and the associations have (?stood firm), watching over the reestablishment of peace, giving us encouragement to put down (?this sedition).

[Words indistinct] or to try to explain [words indistinct] because for this the state institutions and the democratic life of Ecuador have channels that have been clearly established to resolve the contradictions and problems that are the product of the daily coexistence of men, aspirations, and wills, and absolutely nothing can [words indistinct] the violation of the law [words indistinct], much less take us to a confrontation between brothers and the unfortunate loss of Ecuadoran lives.

All Ecuadoreans are witnesses to the tolerance, level-headedness, and mediation that characterized the acts of the national government. In the various episodes that the country followed step by step, we kept you duly informed because we had the obligation of seeking the reestablishment of order and the return to normalcy. We did not (?disregard) any efforts. We even carried out efforts through which the dignity of even those who had violated the Constitution was preserved [words indistinct] of all the Ecuadoran nation. Unfortunately, this was of no use to those who had already made the decision to destroy the democratic and constitutional life of Ecuador.

Let the episode that we have fortunately overcome serve as a lesson. Let it serve to strengthen our democracy and republican life so that a constitutional system will always prevail in Ecuador. Let the judging of the incidents by impartial and legal courts be the best way to maintain the country's social and legal order unharmed.

There have been efforts to find justification for the rebellion by making statements and accusations that [words indistinct] harm the honor and morality of the high-ranking circles of the national government. In a malevolent and [word indistinct] way, there has even been [words indistinct] stain even our office as president of the republic and [words indistinct] using a patriotic achievement of this government, the purchase of an airplane to provide service to remote Loja Province.

Ecuadoreans, you know that when I make accusations or defend something I always do so with irrefutable documents as proof. That is why I take your time of your tonight to prove to the Ecuadoran people, our most important judge, the reality of the events that have taken place.

During the electoral campaign, I promised Loja Province and its people that if I were elected president, I would buy a new airplane to provide service from Loja to Quito and Guayaquil. After 10 August 1984, as president of the Republic, I asked the Ecuadoran Air Force [FAE] to select the best new airplane to keep my campaign promise of integrating remote Loja Province with the rest of Ecuador through air service.

On 10 July 1985 through Document No. 1920, which has additional numbers, General Frank Vargas Pazzos, commanding general of the FAE, wrote to Defense Minister General Pineiros and stated the following: Attached you will find [words indistinct] of the study of commercial airplanes for service in Loja Province which was prepared by the FAE staff so that if approved, it can continue to be processed.

[Words indistinct] of the same year, the defense minister addressed the president of the Republic and stated the following: Mr President: By this means I remit to you, Mr President [words indistinct] the information on the commercial airplanes for service in Loja Province and after the respective study, the FAE recommends the Fokker F28 MK 4000 airplane.

In other words, compatriots, Gen Vargas [words indistinct] selecting the Fokker F28 MK 4000 as the best plane for the commercial routes of Quito-Loja and Guayaquil-Loja. The defense minister sent this document to the president of the Republic.

On 2 September 1985, without the knowledge of the Presidency of the Republic or the Defense Ministry, Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos -- here is the document with the corresponding signature -- addressed the Fokker company and stated the following: The FAE, after an exhaustive study of the offer you presented on 13 December 1984 and on the basis of the study of May 1985, has decided to continue the negotiation in a direct government to government manner for the Fokker airplane for the transportation of passengers by the Ecuadoran Military Air Transport, TAME, especially for air service to the city of Loja. He added: While the purchse of the plane is (?legal), the FAE requests the signature [words indistinct] for placing into service the first days of [words indistinct]. He added: Therefore, we request the presence of your technical and legal representatives in Ecuador to formalize the terms of the contract and the conditions of the negotiation.

That document was signed without my authorization or that of the defense minister by Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos on 2 September 1985 in a letter to the Fokker company, manufacturer of the plane. This letter not only shows that Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos arrogated to himself functions that he does not have because he does not have the legal authority to sign a letter of intent, but it also shows haste in having the place arrive in the country.

What was the plane's purchase price? It cost 40,250,000 florins. In other words, at the price [words indistinct] December 1984, as I am confirming with these documents plus the extra features which Lt Gen Vargas Pazzos demanded that had to be part of the plane. This is why the price of the airplane went to the maximum figure of 40,240,000 florins instead of 26,500,000 florins: because Vargas and the FAE demanded all of these additional [words indistinct] as an integral part of the plane.

On 2 December 1985, here is the document signed by Gen Vargas Pazzos in which he addresses the defense minister again as follows: According to the proposal presented by the Fokker B.V. Company for the initial production of spare parts, [passage indistinct] the pertinent documents in which it is said [passage indistinct] in conformity with that which is stated in Clause 4, letters A, B, and C, of said contract, a photocopy of which I am enclosing for legal purposes. In other words, it is Gen Vargas himself who (?chose) the list of spare parts... [changes thought] of the list of the prices of the spare parts for the planes which totals 13,240,000 florins.

While the Presidency of the Republic, [words indistinct] decree that I presented to you authorizing the purchase of spare parts for up to 16 million florins, it was Vargas himself who chose spare parts, on 2 Debember 1985 totalling not 16 million florins but 13,240,000. On 2 January 1986, a report accepting the plane was issued by the FAE General Staff under the command of Gen Vargas Pazzos who by then was not only the FAE general commander, but chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command.

Later, Ecuadoreans, I was saying [words indistinct] commercial flights from Loja to Quito, Quito to Loja, and from Loja to Guayaquil, the Guayaquil to Loja.

Suddenly, after Gen Vargas' rebellion on Tuesday, 3 [as heard] March 1986, in a television newscast through statements of [name indistinct], legal adviser of the Defense Ministry, I learned that Gen Vargas received two checks from the Fokker company whose photocopies (?I have here): one dated (?6) January 1986 for $50,000 in the name of the FAE ?technicians) club and the other with the same date, (?6) January 1986, in the name of the FAE officers club. As was proper, I asked [name indistinct] not only to send me the photocopies of the checks, but also the receipts signed by the FAE whose copies I have here. One receipt states: Receipt for (?$50,000): received from the representatives of the (Coneisa)-Fokker B.V. the sum of $50,000 as a donation for the FAE (?technicians) club in check number such and such [words indistinct]. Quito, (?13) January 1986. Signed: [name indistinct] Air Force lieutenant, paymaster [words indistinct]. [Words indistinct] that we have received from the representatives of the (Coneisa)-Fokker B.V. the sum of (?$200,000) as a donation for the FAE Officers Club in check number such and such of Citibank International. Quito (?13) January 1986. [Name indistinct], paymaster [words indistinct].

With the closing of the chapter of the Gen Vargas' rebellion yesterday, 17 March [as heard], I asked the secretary general of administration to urgently address the Fokker agent in Ecuador, Mr Carlos Crespo, manager of [name indistinct]. He stated the following: Mr Manager, since it has been charged that Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos, former FAE commanding general, received (?$250,000) from the Fokker company, please state the reasons why the company you represent gave such a sum to the FAE, as well as an account of events and documents that were involved with the request and the delivery. In addition, state the causes for such a commitment and what FAE officers knew this was being done.

Yesterday, the (Coneisa) company, Fokker representative in the country, sent us [words indistinct] through the secretary general of the administration: At the end of the negotiations dealing with -- listen well Ecuadoreans -- at the end of the negotiations dealing with the purchase by the Ecuadoran Government of the plane and in view of the repeated request -- the repeated request -- of Gen Vargas Pazzos as FAE commanding general for the allocation of a sum higher than the one delivered [words indistinct] in benefit of the FAE, we agreed to pay, (?I quote), $250,000 that was given in the manner stated by Gen Vargas.

In other words, at the end of the negotiation, Gen Vargas Pazzos asked the Fokker company agent for a delivery of more than $250,000. They then reached a compromise with Gen Vargas for the sum of $250,000. We believed, the agent said, that the destination of these funds justified our cooperation with the organizations to which the checks were issued. In order to meet your request, the Fokker representatives stated to the secretary general of administration, we indicate that the requests by Gen Vargas were made in the presence of Generals Armando Duran and Angel Flores, Colonel Guillermo Moreira, Major Salinas, and Alfonso Rivadeneira, secretary of the FAE headquarters, among others.

Fellow countrymen, three essential facts are derived from the documents that have been presented. First, the technical suitability for the Fokker plane was recommended and selected by the FAE with documents sent and approved by Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos. Therefore, if the plane is not suitable, as has been unjustifiably argued, it would be the exclusive responsibility of Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos who recommended its purchase.

Second, the airplane involved in the negotiations was new from the factory and unused, as has been reported. The document that proves that the airplane is new from the factory is the receipt [words indistinct] just shown you [words indistinct] members of the FAE. Therefore, if the plane was not new -- something that is not true -- Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos and his representatives who received the plane would be the ones responsible.

Third, if the price that was paid was excessive [words indistinct] it would be the responsibility of Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos because he intervened in all steps of the negotiation. He knew and approved the purchase of the plane [words indistinct] Without my authorization or that of the defense minister he gave the letter of intent to Fokker to begin the negotiations even before it was approved by the president of the Republic and the Defense Ministry. Gen Vargas knew the airplane's selling price, a price in florins. The negotiations were always in florins. [words indistinct] a long period between the date of the offer and the purchase date, November 1985. The list of extra equipment in the plane, more than [words indistinct] in additional equipment, was chosen by the FAE and Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos. The same is true for all the spare parts [words indistinct] that were purchased for that airplane.

Countrymen, the accuser, Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos, has not presented any proof, not a single proof that permits the establishment of the responsibility of sectors of the national government in some illegal action. On the contrary, the documents that you have seen are proof that he and only he, Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos, requested large sums of money from the sellers so that [words indistinct].

Ecuadoreans, what did Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos seek with such a [word indistinct] accusation? The (?goal) is clear, very clear: to break the morale, to morally discredit the national Armed Forces, the base of the structure on which the constitutional system and our democracy rests, and to [word indistinct] affect the honor of a government that has been characterized by the morality and clearness with which it has acted on each and very occasion. In this way, by dividing the Armed Forces and striking a blow at the government, he would have a favorable climate for the political conspiracy that fortunately [words indistinct]. It is easy [words indistinct] to stain the honor of individuals and institutions [words indistinct].

It is satisfying to prove to you, 9 million Ecuadoreans, with documents in hand that the actions of the government -- as I swore -- will always be in accordance with law and honesty. This is seen from the existing documents. This is what the presidency knows. This is what has been reported to the courts of justice. We have sent all these documents to [words indistinct] investigate the case, the president of the Congress, the chairman of the congressional commision to investigate this, the [words indistinct] of the Republic. Nevertheless, this is a democratic country where there are legal procedures and competent courts and only they will have the last word.

For our part, (?I promise again) that there will be no hesitation in punishing with the full rigor of the law anyone who is found guilty of any illegal action in this and in any other affirmation or accusation. What is not acceptable, what I must energetically reject backed by the documents that I have presented to the Ecuadoran people [words indistinct] who have not hesitated in scandalizing the Republic without any grounds [words indistinct] can not accept the government's identification with the high popular interests and who have tried to create an atmosphere that harms our actions without caring about the truth of the events.

Ecuadoreans: [words indistinct] in benefit of justice, the fulfillment of the laws, the [words indistinct] there will be no victims or persons responsible for those victims, where no objective other than the Republic's moral and social well-being is sought, where there is no other desire but to proudly see our flag waving, honored by the discipline, abnegation, and the courage of the three branches of our Armed Forces, the National Police, the [words indistinct] our Ecuador that fortunately had a place of honor among the peoples who permanently struggle for freedom and dignity. Good night and thank you very much.

DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS DESIGNATED

PA210329 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Major General Medardo Salazar Navas, retired, has been designated defense minister to replace General Luis Pineiros, who resigned a few days ago due to the recent incidents led by General Frank Vargas Pazzos. The new official's installation took place today in the presence of President Leon Febres Cordero and the top military hierarchy that approved his appointment.

Acting Defense Minister General Jorge Azanza is now general commander of the Armed Forces and chief of the joint command, replacing General Manuel Maria Albuja, who presented his resignation to the president due to the incidents that took place a few days ago among ranking military officers.

It has also been reported that General Edison Garzon Mareno is the new under secretary of the Defense Ministry, replacing General Azanza.

WAGNER DISCUSSES BORDER TROOP DEPLOYMENTS

PY191627 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Minister Alan Wagner has told the Lima newspaper EL NACIONAL that there is no plan to withdraw Peruvian troops from the border with Chile. The foreign minister also told the morning newspaper that school books on the Pacific War must not encourage differences between the children of Peru and Chile. We have more details about this report from our press department in Arica.

[Begin relay] Peruvian Foreign Minister Alan Wagner told the Lima newspaper EL NACIONAL that quote, there are no plans to withdraw forces from the border, unquote, when he was asked about Peruvian reports that indicate that during the summit meeting of the Chilean and Peruvian military chiefs, which is to be held in May 1986, there will be talks on withdrawals from Arica and Tacna, respectively, to Iquique and Arequipa. He stated that what is being considered is a process of talks that will deal with this modification of the idea of the security needs of each country that will allow advances along a path that could sometime lead to what is mentioned in those press reports.

The Peruvian foreign minister stressed that this topic is not on the agenda of the May meeting. He added that during a stopover in Santiago on his return from Punta del Este, he talked with Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle and that both of them agreed that the topic would not be discussed during the May meeting. He explained that this subject has not been proposed by either Chile or Peru as one of the first objectives in the talks on limiting military expenditures. Asked whether talks can be held with Chile without including Bolivia, Wagner said that Alan Garcia's government has a clear-cut policy regarding Bolivia, which for the Peruvians is more than a neighbor, it is a brother country. Peru and Bolivia were once a whole and that unity cannot be destroyed. We are closely linked to our neighbor. We have shared glories and vicissitudes with Bolivia that have formed a very strong link of unity between the two countries, he concluded.

Alan Wagner expressed his regret to EL NACIONAL regarding the wrong interpretation that has been given to the initiative of the Chilean and Peruvian foreign ministers that is contained in the document that was signed in Lima by the two countries and which calls for the two countries to revise their history books regarding the Pacific War so that they will contribute to the growth of cooperation, which is the long-term objective. Thus, the minister refuted accusations made in his country on the use of school books containing the Peruvian version of the Pacific War. He recalled that his and his Chilean colleague's position is contained in Article 15 of the Andres Bello Agreement that was signed and ratified by the member countries of the Andean Group, including Chile, which, despite its having withdrawn from the Group, still adheres to the agreement.

Wagner stated that it is our intention to implement this article that is contained in an agreement of which we are one of the partners. It is regrettable that this has been interpreted as though we were going to propose a revision of the history books that would distort history, that would diminish the heroism of our heroes, that would cover up the responsibilities of the war's origin, or some such thing. From Arica, this has been Jorge Alfaro for Radio Nacional Chile. [end relay]

SHINING PATH OPENS NEW FRONT IN PUNO DEPARTMENT

PY210059 Paris AFP in Spanish 1803 GMT 20 Mar 86

[By Hugo Levan]

[Text] Lima, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Political observers have remarked in this capital that the Maoist Shining Path terrorist group recently opened a new front, in addition to the ones in Huanuco and Ayacucho, which are northeast and southeast of Lima, respectively. The Shining Path accomplished this by razing to the ground two peasant cooperatives in Puno Department. The situation has gone so far that peasant leaders have sought out Prime Minister Luis Alva and asked him to declare a state of emergency and instruct the Army to move in and fight the rebels.

Puno, 72,000 square km in area with a population of 1 million, is located on the Andean Plateau along the border with Bolivia on the coast of Lake Titicaca in southeastern Peru. Shining Path guerrillas appeared in this region in 1982. In August of last year, they attacked a police station in Umachiri, near Ayaviri, the capital of Melgar Province. After that their actions declined until early 1986, when they started to attack local peasant cooperatives.

At the end of January 1986, some 80 guerrillas attacked the SAIS (Social Interest Agricultural Society) Zollocota, Azangaro Province. They shot to death three cooperative managers and destroyed trucks, tractors, and administrative facilities. The terrorists used the same tactics on 15 March in the nearby SAIS Macalla, setting fire to administrative buildings and destroying farming equipment. The SAIS, peasant cooperatives dating from the 1969 agrarian reform, are bases of prosperity amid the overall rural poverty. Zollocota and Macalla own vast grazing lands where thousands of sheep are bred, and they also have technical resources. The Shining Path terrorists consider them their favorite targets.

In Ayacucho, these cooperatives have been raided repeatedly. On 10 February, the guerrillas razed the prosperous Los Jardines Cooperative, 600 km northeast of Lima, to which 1,200 peasants belong. They did the same in December to an SAIS near Huancayo, 130 km east of Lima. According to experts, the Shining Path efforts in Puno are directed at obtaining the support of poor peasants, whom the large estate owners have pushed onto the hilly and unproductive land.

As a result of this situation, the peasant cooperatives own 90 percent of the land in Puno while 162,000 families have nothing, especially in Melgar and Azangaro Provinces located at an altitude of 4,000 meters, where the Shining Path has been active for 4 years. After a recent visit to Puno, a department that for 4 months has been besieged by rains and floods that have disrupted 30,000 families, President Alan Garcia said that the SAIS had turned into the heirs of the landed gentry of the past and that he would take steps to correct this situation. Garcia reiterated that he plans to give high priority to the development of the so-called Andean Trapezium, the southeastern Andean area which encompasses the Departments of Puno, Cusco, Apurimac, Ayacucho and Huancavelica and the plateaus of Arequipa, Moquegua, and Tacna Departments.

In Ayacucho, the actions of the Armed Forces have curbed the attacks of the Maoist group, but the Shining Path is still entrenched in the jungles of La Mar Province, on the eastern slope of the Andes, and in the mountainous area of this department, which is 600 km southeast of Lima.

In Huanuco and Cerro de Pasco, some 400 km northeast of this capital, where the Shining Path began operating in 1984, the terrorists have destroyed hydroelectric dams and bridges and attacked many mines to steal dynamite, their main weapon of terror. In Huanuco, the terrorists are based in Dos de Mayo and Huamalies, relatively isolated provinces near the Blanca Mountain Range in Ancash Department, which gives them access to that department.

It would seem that the Shining Path strategy is aimed at pitting the impoverished peasants of the mountains against those of the plateau, who have better land. The three Shining Path fronts are located in neglected, impoverished, and mountainous regions with few means of communication. It is very difficult for the armed and police forces to operate in this area.

ORDER FOR MIRAGE PLANES REDUCED FROM 24 TO 12

PY201419 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The Marcel Dassault factory has agreed to reduce the number of Mirage planes that the previous Peruvian administration had ordered. Under the terms of the agreement, negotiated by a Peruvian commission headed by presidential assistant Hector Delgado Parker, the number of planes was reduced from 24 to 12, with an option to (?buy) 2 more in the future. This reduces by $300 million and $200 million respectively the principal and the interest of the contract. The order includes a flight simulator, spare parts, and ground equipment. It is believed that this purchase will give Peru sufficient deterrent power.

The commission headed by Hector Delgado Parker is made up of General Julio Hesse, chief of the general staff, Foreign Ministry representative Gabriel Garcia, and Javier Avogata, director of the foreign (?credit) department of the Economy Ministry. The agreement, negotiated directly with the manufacturer, with French Government approval, annulled the fines and penalty clauses of the previous contract.

BRIEFS

COLOMBIAN TRADE INCREASE -- Lima, 16 Mar (AFP) -- Upon his return from Caracas today Peruvian Industry, Tourism and Integration Minister Manuel Romero said that the Peruvian and Venezuelan governments have agreed to increase their commercial trade to $100 million. The minister recalled that currently trade between the two countries amounts to $75 million and said that this flow will be increased mainly through the export of non-traditional goods. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1911 GMT 16 Mar 86 PY]

1985 MINERAL PRODUCTION -- Lima, 9 Mar (EFE) -- According to a report released by the Peruvian State Mining Enterprise, the Peruvian mineral production during 1985 increased but the amount of foreign currency for mineral exports dropped. According to the report, copper production increased from 375,000 metric tons in 1984 to 400,800 in 1985; while lead production increased from 205,000 tons to 209,500 tons; zinc from 558,400 tons to 593,500 tons; silver from 1,758,000 ounces to 1,849,975 and gold from 5,100 to 5,850 kilos. However, income on mineral exports did not increase because of the drop of international prices. Consequently, Peru exported minerals worth $779 million, that is, $132 million less than in 1984. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1735 GMT 9 Mar 86 PY]

GOVERNMENT-OPPOSITION TALKS SUSPENDED 48 HOURS

PY191537 Paris AFP in Spanish 0252 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Mar (AFP) -- It has been reported here that the negotiations between the government and the opposition for a 3-year intraparty agreement were suddenly suspended for 48 hours at the request of the leftist Broad Front coalition.

Broad Front leader Hugo Batalla explained in Congress this afternoon that the talks were postponed on account of a statement by Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, leader of the centrist National Party. Aldunate's statement bothered the leftist leadership.

On 16 March, upon returning from Europe, Aldunate admitted that if the intraparty agreement was satisfactory, his party would participate in the government cabinet. This statement has led the left to suspect the existence of a bilateral agreement between the government and the National Party.

We will not participate in the negotiations only to witness an agreement between others, a Broad Front source told AFP. The Broad Front has likewise expressed its concern over the short time the political negotiators had for a meeting with Economy and Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino on 17 March. Zerbino today traveled to Costa Rica to participate in the annual IDB governors' meeting. The Broad Front believes that there was not enough time to discuss the subjects it considers fundamental to an agreement.

SANGUINETTI TO VISIT MIDEAST, C. AMERICA

PY200246 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 86

[By Tomas Friedman at the Foreign Ministry]

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry tonight released a communique on the upcoming trips the president of the Republic will make to Israel, Egypt, and Mexico. The communique states that at the invitation of the Egyptian Government the president of the Republic will make an official visit to Egypt from 27 April to 1 May.

In addition, at the special invitation of the Israeli Government, President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will make an official visit to the State of Israel where he will stay until 5 May. Afterward, at the invitation of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, Sanguinetti will make an official visit to Mexico from 5 to 7 May. Finally, on 7 May the president of the Republic will go to Costa Rica to attend the inauguration of President-elect Dr Oscar Arias. The communique states that this visit will permit the strengthening of the good relations between the Uruguayan people and brotherly peoples.

As part of the international contacts, the Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will soon visit Uruguay. Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, along with other Uruguayan officials, will travel to Brazil tomorrow to strengthen commercial ties and implement the agreement signed by Presidents Sanguinetti and Sarney.

PEMEX DIRECTOR REJECTS OIL PRICE DISCOUNTS

PA192257 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta today asserted: Mexico will not waste its oil, participate in irregular commercial practices and speculations, or offer discounts. The country's difficulties are due partly to its own mistakes and miscalculations, but to a great extent they are also caused by the unfairness of an international economic system that is indifferent to the need for evolution of developing countries. The Pemex director said that refining and petrochemical activities will never pass into foreign hands. He added: Let everyone forget about the remotest possibility of granting to others the right to exploit our hydrocarbons. Let everyone keep in mind that, beginning with Cardenas [Lazaro Cardenas, Mexican president 1936-1940] and as President Miguel de la Madrid asserted vigorously, Mexican oil will always belong to Mexico and no one else.

Beteta admitted to the president that the country is in a difficult situation and said that the only genuine stance should be a combative yet sensible and reasonable one, without fruitless haste or delays. Beteta said that this difficult situation will force Pemex to lower its current expenses, make severe adjustments, and concentrate prospecting activities in the country's southeast.

The solution to the world oil problem is to reach an agreement by all exporters to control oil production. Beteta said that Mexico is prepared to continue the dialogue leading to a reorganization of the world market. The Pemex director said the country received $15.5 billion for crude oil and oil byproducts last year and that Pemex' profits reached nearly 4 trillion pesos. Pemex' debt has been lowered by a fifth. Verified oil reserves total more than 70 billion barrels.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEBT EXCEEDS $18.5 BILLION

FL171802 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0245 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's private sector foreign debt exceeds $18.5 billion, giving it a current negative trade balance of $182.9 million. This was included in a report presented by Julio A. Millan, president of international consultants, who explained that the trade balance is negative because exports decreased by $398 million. He added that while exports decreased, imports increased to $2.57 billion.

During the 28th annual conference of sales and marketing executives, Millan said that in the past 3 years the public sector has been the principle generator of income and has achieved an important trade balance exceeding $38.635 billion at the end of 1985.

AREA GOVERNMENTS SILENT ON CONTRA AID REJECTION

PA210155 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0045 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Panama City, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE main office) -- Today the Central American governments kept silent on the U.S. Congress' rejection of the aid for the anti-Sandinists, while a spokesman of Eden Pastora's guerrillas asserted that the refusal "offers a better chance" for the opposition.

The Costa Rican Government has elected not to make any comments about the rejection of the aid in the House of Representatives. Asked by ACAN-EFE, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said: "We are making no comments because this is a matter of U.S. domestic policy."

Asked whether this decision contributed to a Latin American solution for the Central American crisis, he said that "it will be necessary to wait for" the new meeting of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela), the Support Group (Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina), and the Central American foreign ministers convoked for 5 and 6 April.

Gutierrez said that "the effect of this decision will be seen" in the next Contadora meeting "where the document's negotiations will be completed." The foreign minister recalled that Nicaragua assumed a "broad stance" at Contadora in 1985, prior to the vote in the U.S. Congress for the $27 million in humanitarian aid and that the country assumed "an entirely negative stance after the voting." He said: "Let's see what happens in 1986."

Similarly, the Honduran Government did not want to express an opinion and officials of the presidency and the Foreign Secretariat who were consulted only said: "This is a sovereign decision of the U.S. House of Representatives."

In Guatemala City, Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez stressed: "Guatemala has reiterated its neutrality in the Central American conflict." He told ACAN-EFE: "The granting or denying of aid to the anti-Sandinists is a problem of the United States and Nicaragua in which Guatemala will not take sides." Asked about the matter, the Guatemalan Army press director answered: "No comment."

In San Salvador, neither the government nor the Army made any comments. Presidential, diplomatic, and military spokesmen said that any official reaction will be announced by the Ministry of Culture and Communications after the government makes consultations.

COSTA RICA

ARIAS 'RESPECTS' U.S. CONGRESS AID DECISION

PA210414 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] President-elect Oscar Arias has said that he respects the U.S. Congress' decision to refuse $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. Arias stressed the democracy prevailing in the United States and the extent of their debates on matters of national interest, a situation that would never occur in dictatorial regimes. He said: For this reason, I have repeatedly said that the search for peace must occur in democracy through dialogue and permanent compromise and negotiations.

He also said that the U.S. Congress resolution will let Nicaragua show whether it is acting on good faith and whether its leaders want to establish a democratic regime. He also said: If they are sincere, they should initiate a dialogue with the opposition parties and their political adversaries.

He has reported that he and his future deputy foreign minister are currently working on goals for Nicaragua and their deadlines that normalcycan be restored in Central America. He also said that democracy must redouble its efforts for a positive transformation in Nicaragua. This transformation should help Nicaragua fulfill the ideals that inspired its revolution, the ideals that the commanders included in their pledge to the OAS in 1979. According to Arias, the Nicaraguan leaders now have the last word, and it will be up to them whether a peaceful and profitable negotiation for the Nicaraguan people is initiated or violence escalates in their territory sooner or later.

GUATEMALA

CONGRESS PRESIDENT CABRERA ON AID TO CONTRAS

PA200438 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0500 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, president of the National Congress, he said that he respects the U.S. Government's decision, but he has reaffirmed his conviction that there is no possible military solution to the regional conflict. The statements by the president of this high state organization came when he was asked about the U.S. leader's decision to seek approval of $100 million to help the contras fighting against the Nicaraguan Government.

We believe that if a military solution is sought in the region, Cabrera Hidalgo continued, there would be great consequences, and the conflict could be Vietnamized, which would complicate the democratization process. This is why I feel and have said publicly as well as privately that it is necessary to find a peaceful political, and negotiated solution of the Nicaraguan crisis.

Cabrera Hidalgo later added that in this regard he believes that with the decision to establish the Central American parliament, which will be achieved through the meeting of presidents in the region, we will gain the right to solve our own problems.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES CONTRA AID PROPOSAL

PA201418 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Station commentary: "$70 Million for Arms That Will Solve Nothing"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress today began debating President Ronald Reagan's crazy idea for the approval of $100 million in aid for the so-called contras. Of this huge amount, $70 million will be used to buy weapons to attempt to overthrow the Sandinist government in Nicaragua. We ask ourselves: Which U.S. arms manufacturer will profit from the $70 million? What agreements does Mr Reagan have with the merchants of death? How many children, women, elderly, and soldiers will die if this aid is approved? How many Central American towns will disappear from the face of the earth? How many cornfields will be destroyed? How much blood will be shed due to the warmongering obstinancy of the President of the biggest world power?

Oscar Arias, Costa Rican president-elect and political expert, said that those $100 million would be well received in Central American countries that need them for health, education, and housing. We support President-elect Arias because if they are used for weapons, those dollars would only bring grief to a region that has already lived through such unfortunate experiences.

Ever since the philosopher Plato laid the foundations of dialogue as a method leading to valid conclusions, humanity has worked hard to resolve its differences through this method. Sinister souls filled with evil and prejudice are the only ones who cannot sit down to a dialogue with their opponents and even less with their political enemies.

The time has come for Central America to stand up and demand that the $70 million that Ronald Reagan wants to give to the former Somozists to topple the Sandinists be denied. Fortunately, the U.S. Congress is still controlled by the Democrats and the U.S. President, who is now risking his prestige as a leader, is expected to experience a personal, political, and tactical defeat. Let us hope to God that this will be so. May God help us if this is not so because who knows where the $70 million in sophisticated weapons will end up. That money can lead to an unprecedented war. Weapons will not solve a crisis that we Central Americans must resolve without foreign interference of any kind.

HONDURAS

TROOPS REPORTEDLY DEPLOYED TO BORDER AREA

PA202057 Paris AFP in Spanish 2014 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Mar (AFP) -- There was an atmosphere of tension today on the Honduran border with Nicaragua, a few hours before the U.S. Congress decides on $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

An Armed Forces spokesman reported only that troops have been sent to the zone bordering with Nicaragua to reinforce vigilance, but he did not disclose the number of troops sent. Meanwhile, Nicaraguan rebels in Honduran territory are preparing to celebrate the possible approval. The Honduran troops were deployed after the Sandinist Army sent tanks and truckloads of soldiers to northern Nicaragua in case of an eventual contra attack.

Honduran peasants living in the zone bordering on Nicaragua reported to a local radio station that there are at least 3,000 rebels waiting patiently in Honduras for the approval of the millions of dollars in aid from the U.S. Congress. Nevertheless, the Honduran military spokesman did not comment on the counterrevolutionaries' presence in the border area. The local media also reported that at dawn today thousands of anti-Sandinists continued to arrive in Honduran territory fleeing from the Sandinist Army.

In recent days, the rebels have carried out constant attacks against border towns in Nicaragua. Sources close to the Nicaraguan Government noted that it fears that the anti-Sandinists may attempt to launch "spectacular" operations. A spokesman for the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) in Honduras reported today that the contras have plans for a special celebration if the Congress votes in their favor. He also said that the FDN has been waiting for that economic aid to better prepare and restart their struggle with greater military power in the coming days.

Meanwhile, in this capital, Honduras' major labor leaders expressed their concern over an announcement by a U.S. spokesman that U.S. military advisers will openly train the contras in Honduras. The secretary general of the Honduran Workers Confederation (CTH) said that if the contras obtain greater economic aid "we would come closer to war, and Honduras would be serving as a springboard for an invasion of Nicaragua."

Moreover, the Honduran Govenment is trying to ignore the consequences that an increase in economic aid for the Nicaraguan rebels would have for the country, and top government spokesmen are saying that "this is a problem of the U.S. Administration."

Army Refutes Reports

PA210513 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0466 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Mar (DPA) -- Tonight the Honduran Armed Forces denied deploying 5,000 troops to the border with Nicaragua, refuting reports being broadcast since yesterday in Tegucigalpa. Yesterday dispatches from this city citing a "military intelligence spokesman" as the source, stated that in an "unusual Armed Forces operation, 5,000 soldiers had been deployed to the border with Nicaragua," as well as anti-aircraft artillery and war tanks.

The operation, the report said, "was authorized by the Armed Forces High Council." Consulted tonight by DPA, Major Jorge Arguello, Armed Forces public relations director, said that "the information is false, there has been no deployment, far less the deployment of so many soldiers to the border with Nicaragua."

Maj Arguello pointed out that there has been a deployment of troops to the southern and eastern parts of the country from Palmerola in the north central area, to Choluteca and Ojo de Agu, more than 60 km from the border with Nicaragua. This deployment, he explained, is part of a joint exercise of Honduran and U.S. troops called "Command, Control, and Communications Post."

PAZ BARNICA COMMENTS ON CONTRAS WITHIN COUNTRY

PA210039 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] "If the contras fail to get the U.S. Senate to give them $100 million to continue their fight against the Sandinists, we would have serious political, economic and social problems here in Honduras," said former Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica.

However, Paz Barnica admits that the antirevolutionary group is nothing more than the result of the complexity of the Central American conflict and that it is characteristic of the crisis affecting the region.

"Those gentlemen, the contras, should be fighting inside Nicaragua where they belong. Their problems only revert to Honduras. This is something that we are experiencing, and a responsible government should adopt the measures it considers necessary for the good of democracy, social peace, and national security," the former head of the Honduran diplomacy said.

Paz Barnica feels that 10, 15, or 18,000 Nicaraguan revolutionaries represent a very serious problem for Honduras as well as for Central America..."If those gentlemen should fail -- up to this moment I have no idea whether they have occupied a single village in Nicaragua -- we would have huge problems of incalculable consequences here in Honduras."

"It is extremely dangerous for the contras to continue living here -- if it is true that they are living here instead of fighting in Nicaragua," said Paz Barnica. He added that, at the sessions of the National Security Council, during the former administration headed by Roberto Suazo Cordova, he expressed the need to adopt measures to get the counterrevolutionaries to stop using our territory as a springboard to destablize Nicaragua and that friendly governments were asked to receive them when they were still not fighting." [quotation mark as published] However, the efforts were all useless.

The former foreign secretary asked: What will be done with those thousands of strongly armed counterrevolutionaries if the efforts being made by President Reagan fail and the Congress does not approve the $100 million in aid? He answered: "As a whole, they are greater in number than our own Armed Forces. It is an unconventional army that would remain here, and this would create a vicious cycle with serious problems such as the ones we are already experiencing. In the recent past they committed horrible crimes. The residents of Choluteca and El Paraiso had to lock themselves in their homes at 1800 because after that hour, they [the contras] began to commit crimes against Hondurans, some Nicaraguan contras are responsible for the vile murder of Major Ricardo Zuniga Morazan as well as other war crimes..."

Paz Barnica concluded by saying that President Azcona Hoyo must have a very clear picture of the problem and the decisions he must adopt if the U.S. Senate does not approve the $100 million for the Nicaraguan contras.

GENERAL BUESO ROSA RETURNS 'UNEXPECTEDLY'

PA201907 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa arrived here unexpectedly at 0500 yesterday from Miami, where he had been on trial in recent weeks for his alleged participation in a plot to murder former Hondurn President Roberto Suazo Cordova and for being linked to a band of international narcotics traffickers.

Last night Radio America reported his arrival, and this report was confirmed at the Toncontin Airport. Bueso Rosa was met at the airport by his closest relatives, who did not explain the reasons for his return to the country. Bueso Rosa was charged by the FBI with being involved in the plot, made public in Honduras on 2 November 1984. Honduran businessman Faiz Ikaffy, who is awaiting sentencing in the U.S. courts, was also involved in the plot. U.S. citizen (Gerald Lachinian) has already been sentenced.

When General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez was chief of the Armed Forces, Gen Bueso Rosa was sent as military attache to Chile, where he requested asylum after the U.S. charges were made. He later turned himself in to the Chilean authorities after the United States sent an extradition request. He was brought to trial in late 1985 in Miami. It is not known under what conditions the United States allowed Gen Bueso Rosa to travel to Honduras yesterday. The local authorities have not explained the situation. Gen Bueso Rosa arrived via safe-conduct, Radio America learned. He was met at the Toncontin Airport by his relatives.

We repeat: Gen Bueso Rosa is in Honduras. What does former President Roberto Suazo Cordova have to say about that?

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA REACTS TO HOUSE DEFEAT OF CONTRA AID

PA210237 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] President Commander Daniel Ortega issued a statement a few minutes ago, giving what can be considered the first official reaction of the Nicaraguan Revolutionary Government, following the unfavorable vote on Ronald Reagan's proposal of giving $100 million to the counterrevolution. Our reporter Nelba Lopez recorded President Daniel Orgega's statements; he warned that even though the U.S. Congress this afternoon rejected Ronald Reagan's proposal to give more aid to the counterrevolution, this does not mean that the United States' war threats against Nicaragua will disappear.

The FSLN and the revolutionary government considers the discussion that has been carried out at the U.S. Congress immoral and illegal, the president of the Republic said a few minutes ago. In addition, he reasserted the revolutionary government's unchanging position of never holding a dialogue with the counterrevolution. Let us hear the president's statement, issued a few minutes ago, concerning the U.S. Congress' vote:

[Begin recording] [Ortega] The discussions currently taking place in the U.S. Congress, either in the House of Representatives or the Senate are illegal and immoral. Therefore, these discussions counter international opinion and normal relations among states. We will not discuss the U.S. Congress' decision -- we will not fall into this trap -- we will only refer to the debate itself. The U.S. Congress is assuming, when debating the U.S. President's request, rights no one has given them. The international community has not given them the right; not even the United States' Constitution gives them that right. They are simply assuming this right, and furthermore, they also fail to abide by the International Court of Justice's mandate, a juridical instrument recognized -- at world level -- which the United States has used on many occasions. This court has clearly ordered [words indistinct] that Reagan [corrects himself] the United States should stop all types of aggression against Nicaragua.

The problem here is that Nicaragua continues to withstand an aggression, and this aggression continues to increase against our country. The aggression continues to increase, it has not stopped, [words indistinct] support that the mercenary troops received from the Reagan Administration. This support has continued to increase, and we now see that the U.S. Congress is debating again a policy of aggression against Nicaragua. Therefore, we reject the debate, itself; we do not care whether they vote in favor or against. The problem is that they are debating this, and the war continues against Nicaragua, and a threat prevails against Nicaragua. Likewise, the U.S. Senate will vote again on this and the fact that they voted against it today does not mean that the war will stop. We are still at war, the aggression continues; the U.S. troops are still in Honduras and they have even moved up their manuevers, which were scheduled for April and were intentionally moved up to these days, when the debate was going to take place at the U.S. Congress.

This coincides with the deployment of Honduran troops to the territory bordering Nicaragua; there are reports of deployment of 5,000 Honduran soldiers today to the border with Nicaragua. The mercenary bands which are supported by the Reagan administration continue to murder the Nicaraguan people, destroying the people's property, and threatening the Nicaraguan people's lives. Consequently, we are still at war, and we continue to defeat the mercenary forces. Meanwhile, the U.S. President and Congress violate the international juridical norms and act immorally by discussing what is the best way to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there any special [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] We must bear in mind, as I said, that this is only the first vote. According to their system, another vote must follow. In other words, the process has barely begun; the process has not ended. We think that Latin America will continue to defend a Latin Americanist position in favor of peace and against intervention. The Latin American people have been defending this position, and this has also been defended by many Latin American leaders. It is important to underscore that the aggression continues against our country and our people. This makes it necessary for us to not only pursue a greater mobilization in the military sector -- due to the military aggression -- but also a greater and more organized economic sector, because the aggression imposes more costs on us than the crisis. [Words indistinct] with all the deployment of U.S. Army forces in Honduran territory.

Consequently, we are forced to [words indistinct], double productivity and increase discipline, to increase the people's awareness and strengthen the Nicaraguan people's spirit of sacrifice and patriotism. We must do this with specific actions in favor of the revolution's military defense and production. Thus, we must also (?increase) our production because our enemies think that we are tired and that their military actions will totally deteriorate the Nicaraguan economy. We must solve the economic crisis, because this is a national problem; everybody is involved. Therefore, everybody -- all the government officials and members of the FSLN, the working people, the patriotic forces of the country that are identified with various political parties but have sincere feelings for their homeland and the defense of our national unity -- must join and support the military defense of the revolution, and work with efficiency and discipline to increase our productivity.

[Reporter] Referring to the statements issued by certain bishops on the debate, does the government intend to continue carrying out some kind of dialogue with the church?

[Ortega] We have clearly stated our willingness to normalize relations with the church. In sum, we have reasserted and will continue to reassert that there is no persecution against the church in Nicaragua, and there never will be. In the political sector, yes. Whoever opposes the revolution in the political sector will receive a reply -- also political -- from the revolution. Of course, certain members of the church leadership have been supporting Reagan's plan and have lent themselves to Reagan's plan by going to the United States to slander the revolution. Well, they are losing all their moral and religious authority before the people, because they have not been -- in any way -- on the people's side. Likewise, they are not defending the Nicaraguan people's human rights in any way. Instead, they have chosen to side with those who violate the Nicaraguan people's human rights. [end recording]

Further Reaction to Vote

PA202328 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2140 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Telephone relay by correspondent Bayardo Mendoza in Washington -- live]

[Text] At this moment we are trying to contact ANN headquarters. They have the latest on President Reagan's defeat in the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives voted against Ronald Reagan's request for $100 million in military aid to the contras. ANN's correspondent Roberto Cohen has sent fresh information and Comrade Bayardo Mendoza will give us some of the information that has not yet been published by ANN.

[Begin Mendoza relay] I wish to inform you that Roberto Cohen and Maria Vargas are two of our correspondents in Washington. This report from Washington: Even though White House spokesman Larry Speakes has described the results as a bitter defeat for the President to swallow, some political analysts believe that it is simply a temporary defeat for the $100 million in aid to the contras. Larry Speakes said that despite the defeat that he just experienced in the House of Representatives, the President is solemnly determined to continue his efforts before the House until freedom in Nicaragua is achieved. Some day, Speakes added, the House of Representatives will realize the danger Nicaragua represents. The House will again debate this issue in 2 weeks. Speakes told the press that President Reagan had sent a massage to the counterrevolutionary leaders telling them: Have faith, have hope; the U.S. people realize that your cause is also our cause. This was President Reagan's message to the counterrevolutionary leaders who are, at this moment, giving a press conference in Washington.

This confirms what President Ortega recently said about this request for $100 million in aid to the contras. President Ortega said in Stockholm that President Reagan does not seem very sure that he will get the approval for the $100 million. However, Ortega added, this battle is not a financial battle, the $100 million is not the issue; it is a political battle because if he does not get that aid, Reagan will look for a way to continue helping the counterrevolution.

The following are a few editorial notes from our correspondents in Washington: The experts believe that this is a relative defeat aimed at the U.S. political stage, however, for Nicaragua and Central America this promises important effects. Proof of this is the concentration of Honduran troops at the Nicaraguan border to support the attacks that the contras have carried out in the past few days. Despite the President's last minute maneuver to win the votes of the "undecided" congressmen, a majority of the congressmen rejected what Democrat Representative Thomas O'Neill described as a recipe [receta] for escalation, bloodshed, and U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua.

For some, this afternoon's dramatic vote at the House of Representatives, after more than 10 hours of heated debates, is a test of the United States' foreign policy and Reagan's performance as president. It is believed that the margin of defeat is significant in face of the strong campaign that the administration unleashed in recent weeks to get the support for its request by presenting the aid as a matter of U.S. national security. Aside from making changes in the schedules for the disbursement of the aid, Reagan also twisted arms and distributed gifts, according to congressmen. Some of the most staunch supporters of the administration, like Republican Jack Kemp, said that these votes would go down in history as proof of the loyalties of each congressman. This was a hint that this had been a test of the congressmen's "patriotism."

Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, made a dramatic call to the congressmen to vote according to their conscience and not to vote with their eye on the upcoming November elections. The Democrats who voted against the aid unanimously expressed their distrust in the contras' capacity for a military defeat of the Sandinist Government or for representating a democratic alternative for the current government. They also insisted on the need to follow a policy that would get the support of the U.S. people and the United States' Latin American and European allies. Those who opposed President Reagan's proposal expressed their intention to support alternatives that will be discussed in mid-April. Some of these alternatives are very much like the proposal that have just been rejected and would also go against the anti-interventionist position of the Contadora process. According to Larry Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, this could be a short-term victory and, unfortunately, not too many congressmen are willing to leave themselves open to the charge of being soft on communism, and in turn will take the route in accordance to their conscience.

In conclusion, the Nicaraguan Embassy has described the voting as a step in the right direction. It is the hope of the people and Government of Nicaragua that this vote will mark the beginning of a new policy in which peaceful negotiation will impose itself over the military solutions that only lead to useless death and destruction.

The Nicaraguan diplomatic statements made in Washington were immediately answered by White House spokesman Larry Speakes who said: The President is solemnly determined to coutinue with his efforts before the House until freedom in Nicaragua is achieved. Some day the House of Representatives will realize the danger Nicaragua represents.

Meanwhile, Reagan sent a message to the contras who are holding a press conference in Washington. He told them: Have faith, have hope; the U.S. people realize that your cause is also our cause. [end relay]

Tunnerman on Aid Rejection

PA202259 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2103 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Telephone interview with Carlos Tunnerman, ambassador to the United States by unidentified reporter, from the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington -- live]

[Text] [Tunnerman] Thanks. Greetings to the Nicaraguan people through Radio Sandino. The Nicaraguan people must understand that the struggle will continue. This rejection by the U.S. House of Representatives of the $100 million in aid requested by U.S. President Ronald Reagan for the counterrevolutionaries is only one step. The request was rejected this afternoon at the U.S. Congress House of Representative. The rejection is positive because this represents the rejection of the U.S. Administration's warmongering and militarist stance. The idea of not giving more aid to the counterrevolutionaries and leaving the door open for negotiations through the Contadora process prevailed. Yet, as I said before, this is only one step. The Senate still has to vote. Let's keep in mind that the Republican Party, of which the U.S. Administration is a part, enjoys the majority in the Senate. It is also possible that later the administration may again present some other alternatives or demands for example that the Congress enter into negotiations to attain the administration's objectives after all, namely, military aid for the contras.

We stress this so that we can be aware that we must remain vigilant and attentively follow the development of these events. We must keep from thinking that we have won a final victory because the House of Representatives rejected President Reagan's request this afternoon. We must bear in mind that the process has only begun, and this struggle will continue. We must always be ready to respond to these attempts at deciding our country's destiny in the congress of a foreign country.

[Reporter] Comrade Ambassador, we also want to know the reaction of the U.S. press and people regarding this Congress discussion to continue the U.S. Government's aggression against our country.

[Tunnerman] Well, the first wire dispatches and radio and television news regarded this rejection as a defeat for President Reagan and his administration because, despite his efforts to do everything possible to have his request approved, the 222 votes against and only 210 for with a difference of only 12 votes, indicates a significant result at this time. It was a tight debate and an even smaller difference had been anticipated. The media have interpreted this as a defeat that the House has dealt to the administration. Of course, this is only one stage, and many others have to be completed.

[Reporter] Comrade Ambassador, regarding the many stages that you have mentioned, we would like you to expand a little for our people on these stages that the U.S. Congress must fulfill in view of this afternoon's rejection, considering that not all has been done.

[Tunnerman] Well, in order for the decision to be final it is necessary to have a positive vote in the two chambers. We have a negative vote in the House of Representatives. The Senate will likely cast a vote tomorrow -- although this is not for sure -- or Monday. Although the Senate may vote in the opposite direction and approve the U.S. President's request, the package that he proposed cannot possibly be made law because the House of Representatives voted no. What will happen is this: After the recess at the end of the month and the beginning of next month, that is to say, after 7 April, a series of [words indistinct] and meetings of the Senate and House will begin, with much pressure from the administration, that will make efforts to have some bill approved through the consensus of the party members. In this way, the administration will try to get some form of aid for the counterrevolutionaries. Our government's stance is very clear. We oppose all forms of aid. We oppose even the very fact that Nicaragua's destiny has been discussed in the Congress of a foreign country. We believe that this discussion does not make any sense; that some assume a right to decide Nicaragua's destiny through casting votes in the Congress of this country. This is why we believe that we must follow these events closely, and that the Nicaraguan people must continue to always be ready and prepared for its defense.

[Reporter] Comrade Ambassador, how do you describe the U.S. decision to freeze for 90 days [words indistinct]? It has been said that the White House will pressure Nicaragua into holding a dialogue with the counterrevolutionaries.

[Tunnerman] This is one of the alternatives that had been considered. This was presented by the U.S. Administration at the last minute in an effort to convince the House members or have some of them vote for the proposal. However, this was not considered today. It is the original proposal, as President Reagan had presented it, that was discussed and voted. This proposal entailed $70 million in immediate military aid and $30 in immediate humanitarian aid. This was rejected today.

[Reporter] Comrade Ambassador, we only want you, on behalf of the diplomatic personnel, to reassure our people about the work carried out to confront U.S. aggression against our country.

[Tunnerman] To tell you the truth, this is a victory for the Nicaraguan and Latin American peoples. We advocate negotiation. When aid for the counterrevolutionaries is rejected, an opportunity arises for negotiation and seeking peace through diplomatic means and the Contadora process. Since this is Latin America's and Nicaragua's stance, it is Latin America and Nicaragua who have been strengthened by this vote in the House.

Contadora's and our government's stance that Central American problems will not be solved militarily, but through negotiation and dialogue, has been strengthened.

Contra Reaction

PA210350 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Washington, 20 Mar (EFE) -- The U.S. House of Representatives' rejection of aid to the contras gives the "advantage to the Sandinists" and means a "heavy blow to Nicaraguans fighting for Democracy," Alfonso Robelo, one of the rebel leaders, said.

"Eden Pastora, disappointed to see that the world does not care that Nicaraguans live or die as slaves, has left to continue fighting in Nicaragua, and vowed not to return to Washington," said the spokesman for ARDE, a group fighting the Sandinists in southern Nicaragua, led by former Commander Zero.

Pastora left Washington shortly after the House of Representatives' vote and said: "I will tell Nicaraguan peasants, on whose side I will fight until I die, that nobody wants to help us."

For Armstrong Wycliffe, a Miskito leader of Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity, the vote "means defeat for the FDN, giving a political space to moderate rebel leaders who, like all Nicaraguans, want liberty but not the return of the Somozist regime."

"Thank God, U.S. congressmen rejected the fact that the [Reagan] administration is still supporting former Somozist guardsmen such as Enrique Bermudez (FDN military leader) and the FDN in Tegucigalpa and Miami," the Miskito leader added.

Called 'Psychological Defeat'

PA210059 Paris AFP in Spanish 2324 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpt] San Jose, 20 Mar (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO) and the Southern Opposition Bloc (BOS), the main alliances of the anti-Sandinist groups, today admitted that they had suffered a "psychological defeat" when the U.S. Congress voted against the $100 million in aid requested by President Ronald Reagan.

"We have lost a battle but not the decisive battle," UNO leader Roberto Urroz said and added that the U.S. Congress vote "could be changed," shortly.

"Today some congressmen voted against democracy, but if the aid plan presented by Reagan is amended and the last minute suggestions are included, we are sure it will pass," Urroz said.

Meanwhile, BOS leader Jose Davila also said that today's vote "represents a psychological blow," but at the same time "it shows the need for broader initiatives that involve the Latin American forces in the search for an effective solution to the Nicaraguan crisis." Davila said that the "issue was not approached in the correct manner because it is not a matter of a conflict between Ronald Reagan and the nine Managua commanders, but rather the establishment of a Marxist dictatorship that has brought the East-West conflict into the region."

"We feel that the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the Central American presidents now have the floor [tienen la palabra]," Davila said. He insisted that BOS has always supported a broader approach to the Nicaraguan problem, an approach that would not only include military matters, but also political matters.

"If the political matters are taken into consideration, even the congressmen that voted against the aid would change their minds, because the whole world is aware of the threat that the communist Government of Nicaragua represents and the need for effective solutions to the Central American crisis," Davila concluded.

UNO: Contras Will Win

PA210223 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0148 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] San Jose, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO), led by Adolfo Calero, Arturo Cruz, and Alfonso Robelo, said through a spokesman in this capital that the setback they suffered at the U.S. Congress will not make them lower their guard. Fabio Gadea, a member of the anti-Sandinist directorate, said: We have lost a battle, but we will win the war.

The Nicaraguan opposition leader described the negative vote on Reagan's initiative in favor of the "freedom fighters" as the result of the "tug of war" that exists between Democrats and Republicans in the United States.

Gadea added: We have a great deal of faith that President Reagan will continue with the banner of democracy for Latin America and Central America, not only in favor of Nicaragua.

The UNO representative said that the Nicaraguans do not expect other nations or other organizations to solve their problems, but that "we must resolve them by ourselves."

Historically, the leader said, Nicaraguans have known how to "get rid of all dictators."

In 1856 the Costa Ricans helped us get William Walker's filibusters out of Nicaragua' in 1930 "the true" Sandino, with a handful of men, got rid of the American invaders; and in 1979 the people with their weapons in their hands got rid of Somoza, but they were "betrayed by the Soviet power that already had its puppets ready."

Gadea admitted that "there are many resources we could "get our hands on" to continue the struggle, and in any case "we will continue fighting with our fingernails," as we have done during the past months in the northern and southern parts of Nicaragua." [quotation marks as received]

After the U.S. Congress' vote against military aid, "I do not believe that our fighters' condition will change very much."

We will not lower our guard, we will continue in the struggle, as we have demonstrated during these past few days in the northern part of Nicaragua where the rebel forces blew up the Yaraguila power station, and left 20 towns without electric service.

We will go forward as fighters, in the political as well as in the military and diplomatic aspects, Gadea concluded.

DEFENSE MINISTRY ON TROOP DEPLOYMENT

PA210138 Paris AFP in Spanish 0026 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 20 Mar (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry confirmed today that the border post of El Espino, the only Honduran border post, has been closed since last week, when "counterrevolutionary groups attacked the site from the neighboring country."

The Defense Ministry spokesman, Captain Rosa Pasos, told AFP that counterrevolutionary groups attacked El Espino last Thursday with rifles and mortars, from the Honduran post of La Fraternidad.

Pasos claimed that the attack was carried out with "the approval" of the Honduran Army and said that there were no casualties among the Sandinist forces.

In addition, Pasos confirmed that many Sandinist soldiers were deployed to the northern border zone during the past few days, "to prevent a counterrevolutionary offensive."

Nevertheless, she denied that such a deployment of soldiers and armored vehicles represents a "provocation" to the Honduran Army, which also mobilized its troops to the border zone during the past few hours.

"We are only preparing our defense in case of an eventual counterrevolutionary offensive and the deployment of troops to the border has no other objective." Captain Pasos explained.

The anti-Sandinist guerrillas reactivated their actions in the northern zone during last week, including the destruction of a power substantion close to the border zone, which left a vast region without electricity.

MINISTRY REPORTS DECREASE IN RICE HARVEST

PA201654 Bogota EL SIGLO (NICARAGUA HOY supplement) in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 4

[Text] Managua -- The country's rice harvest this year will not be enough for the population. Although no official figures have been given, it is understood that the amount is well below the quantity the Sandinist government expected.

Benjamin Linarte, official in charge of rice production for the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry, said that rice production in the country, which was 200,000 quintals 5 years ago, has decreased to 130,000. Meanwhile, Linarte said consumption has increased and the tendency is for it to increase even more.

Henry Montano, official in charge of rice distribution in the Domestic Trade Ministry, reported that in 1986 the Sandinist government had intended each consumer to have 3 lbs of rice per month, but by January it could only supply 2 lbs per month.

Counterrevolutionary activities have hindered collection of a lot of the rice that had already been harvested, said Montano, who added that the lack of machinery, spare parts, and other accessories is also affecting the rice harvest.

In one of the most somber reports on the country's basic grain industry, Montano revealed that between 50 and 80 percent of the rice processing machinery used on state-owned farms is unserviceable or only partially functional.

Montano urged the rice growers to surpass their production goals despite all the difficulties, stating that the Sandinist government intends to harvest 2 million quintals of rice from 64,500 manzanas this year.

U.S. HOUSE VOTE REJECTING AID TO CONTRAS NOTED

FL202110 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2011 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Last-minute news: The House of Representatives, which has a majority of Democrats, has rejected President Ronald Reagan's request for $100 million for the anti-Sandinist rebels. The proposal was rejected by a vote of 222 to 210. This results in a severe defeat for the White House, which has conducted a great campaign to get the Congress to authorize $70 million in military aid and $30 million for humanitarian assistance for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

Radio Analysts Comment

PA210205 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 86

["Brief analysis" by Pedro Manuel Otero, Radio Havana chief editor, and Roberto Morejon, specialist on U.S. and Central American affairs, from Radio Havana main studio, on 20 March 1986 -- recorded]

[Text] [Otero] Effectively, as was announced a few hours ago, the U.S. House of Representatives voted against the President's request for $100 million for the former Somozist guardsmen. This refusal to approve the President's petition by the House of Representatives, with a majority of democrats, is a serious defeat to President Reagan's arm race and warmongering plans for Central America. I think it is worth pointing out here that many of the congressmen who voted this time against the President's petition, such as Democrat Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the house, firmly stated that in case of an affirmative vote, it could mean the first of an involvement in Central America as the one in Vietnam.

[Morejon] The decision in the House of Representatives today has been a hard blow to Reagan because the President of the United States had doubled his anti-Nicaraguan campaign during the past few weeks. He had doubled it to such a point that several international observers, and even Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega, had said that this persistent effort by the U.S. President led to believe that his mental state was not right. I think that international observers, and Commander Daniel Ortega, had made a correct observation, with which we agree.

[Otero] I would like to say before finishing that according to news dispatches, President Reagan made a last minute proposal last night, to hold back $70 million of the $100 million he was asking in military aid for the groups attacking Nicaragua. That is, Reagan made the proposal to freeze those funds for 90 days. Meanwhile, some diplomatic actions would be carried out with Managua. This makes us believe that Reagan feared that his proposal was definitely going to be rejected. That is why this new alternative from his original request was submitted. This is very important and it is also significant that the House of Representatives also rejected this new alternative submitted by Reagan.

Now the Senate will discuss and vote next Tuesday on the $100 million aid request. If the Senate, where the Republicans have a majority, approves the President's request, the Senate and the House will have to reach an agreement to decide what to do with the $100 million that President Reagan insists on giving to the Somozist groups.

Reagan Lobbying Noted

PA200429 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has increased his lobbying among the U.S. Congressmen who are still undecided on the president's request for $100 million for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. In the past few hours Reagan met with 20 Congressmen who have been described as opposed to the president's request for aid to the Somozists. Despite the pressures from the White House, the second highest ranking Democrat in the U.S. Congress has said that Reagan's request will be defeated during Thursday's debates. Meanwhile, White House spokesman Larry Speakes has said that President Reagan will win at the House of Representatives, even though he did admit that it would be a close vote.

Lusinchi, Cerezo on Aid

PA200443 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo have said they are in favor of a negotiated solution to the serious crisis in Central America. During a meeting with the diplomatic corps accredited in Caracas, the Guatemalan president expressed his country's support for the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group and its Support Group. In their statements, Lusinchi and Cerezo implicitly rejected U.S. President Ronald Reagan's request for the U.S. Congress to approve $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary bands. During a luncheon given by Sebastian Alegrett, SELA permanent secretary, in honor of President Cerezo, the Guatemalan president expressed his support for this organization and called for the consolidation of a Latin American unity to confront the serious problems experienced by the region. President Cerezo is on an official visit to Venezuela.

NONALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL BEGINS CONFERENCE

FL201847 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, inaugurated this morning the fourth general conference of news agencies from Nonaligned Countries. Fernandez analyzed the role of news agencies in the current international situation and the collective efforts made in confronting the distortion of truth by transnational information services. The conference agenda, approved by the Coordinating Committee, includes fundamental topics such as perfection of the news pool and informative coverage of the eighth summit conference of the Nonaligned Movement countries, which will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in September. In general, the participants, including more than 30 directors of news agencies, agreed that concrete steps have to be taken to complete the programs previously approved by the pool in New Dehli, Belgrade, and Tunis and that the one approved in Cuba should mark a vigorous advance in the battle against disinformation and monopolistic control by transnational news services and the new international informative order.

PRENSA LATINA Head New Leader

FL202054 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2004 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The fourth general conference of the pool of news agencies from Nonaligned Countries that is meeting in Havana has unanimously elected Cuba to preside over this organization for the next 3 years. Pedro Margolles Vallanueva, director general of PRENSA LATINA News Agency, was selected president and received his new commission from out-going President (Bachir Towal), from Tunisia.

Malmierca Comments

FL202232 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2159 GMT 20 Mar 86]

[Excerpt] Havana, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations Isidoro Malmierca has said here today that the news agencies of Nonaligned Countries must give better coverage to the acts of aggression perpetrated by South Africa against the independent states of southern Africa. During the 11th meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the pool, the Cuban foreign minister accused Western news agencies of having boycotted the Nonaligned Movement to reduce its influence in international politics. At this meeting, the report on the activities of the pool during the past 3 years was read; this report will be presented to the fourth general conference of the pool, which began today in the Cuban capital.

COMMENTARY VIEWS 'REPRESSION,' 'UNREST' IN CHILE

PA201619 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Notwithstanding the huge amount of negative information gathered by the special representative of the UN Human Rights Commission, the final document drafted by Fernando Volio fails to fully reflect the intensity of the Chilean problem, which is not limited to alternatives of life and death, detention and disappearance, internment and torture, or internment and the subsequent release of persons.

When one sets aside the simple mathematical count of the dead and missing, or the jailed and tortured, and delves into the social trauma caused by 13 years of indiscriminate repression, the picture becomes complicated to the point where it becomes an exasperating reality.

Recently a group of U.S. doctors conducted a survey in Chile. The results of this survey indicate that the majority of the population is suffering from psychic and psychological disorders caused by the policy of terror that the military regime has pursued since September 1973. The report of the U.S. doctors refers to one of the most profound and negative aspects of the Chilean military administration. According to the document, the ordinary citizen is a prisoner between two opposite lifestyles -- an external life that is forced upon and imposed upon him by the standards of conduct established by oppressive laws, and an internal life that represents his true personality, which he must emotionally suppress in order to submit to the mechanisms of terror imposed by the authorities. This social trauma is not only reflected in the psychic and psychological problems of the population, but the extreme poverty and its logical consequence -- hunger -- have also forced young mothers to engage in prostitution to support younger family members.

In a study on the crisis of the Chilean family, Jesuit priest Christian Vives has noted that the main factors in this situation are unemployment and the extremely high cost of living, which have forced a large portion of the population to live in crowded slum areas. The Jesuit priest stressed that this situation further contributes to family decay and alters the role that society has traditionally assigned to that human group.

According to the latest official statistics, the unemployment rate in Chile exceeds 13 percent and the bulk of the unemployed are in Santiago, the capital. This has forced the poor inhabitants to take over lands in which, despite the brutal evictions, they build shantytowns from which they desperately fight for their rights. The regime's fear that the overall trauma will result in social turmoil is evident. Proof of this are he threats that Augusto Pinochet made in a recent visit to Curiaco, where he said that the country must continue to advance in the direction indicated by the dictatorship. If there is any need for an iron fist they will have one, and quite harsh, he emphasized. The anouncement that the repressive tactics will be stepped up will only add to the unrest in a society that fascism wants to destroy.

RAFAEL RODRIQUEZ RETURNS FROM FUNERAL IN SWEDEN

FL191126 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has returned to Cuba after being part of the delegation headed by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro which attended the 27th CPSU Congress. Rafael Rodriguez also visited the DPRK and later presided over the delegation that attended the funeral service for Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

CTC DELEGATION ATTENDS MONTREAL LABOR MEETING

FL191150 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] The 12th conference of the International Labor Organization continues its work today in Montreal after an opening ceremony in which Jesus Escandel, member of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, CTC, was elected vice president. The Cuban trade union delegation presented a draft resolution stressing that the foreign debt is unpayable.

ELECTRICAL ENERGY PROTOCOL WITH USSR SIGNED

FL201532 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1421 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The Soviet Union and Cuba have signed in Moscow a protocol resulting from the 13th session of the electrical energy work group of the intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation. The document was signed in the Cuban Embassy's economic office during a ceremony presided over by Nikolay Lopatin and Rodrigo Ortiz Gomez, deputy minister of Soviet power and electrification and vice minister of Cuban basic industry, respectively. The two officials referred to the importance of the agreements reached on the first electro-nuclear center under construction in Juragua, Cienfuegos. They also stressed other large investments such as the thermo-electric center in east Havana, the 500-volt electrical line, and other electrical energy projects operating in Cuba with Soviet assistance.

5-YEAR TRADE PROTOCOL WITH YUGOSLAVIA SIGNED

FL200240 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of foreign trade, and Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Milenko Bojanic signed the trade protocol between Cuba and Yugoslavia for the present 5-year period.

In addition, the trade agreement for the present year, which totals 60 million pesos in goods in the two directions, was also signed.

Cabrisas and Bojanic stressed the bonds of friendship that join the peoples of the two nations. The protocol signed will make it possible for Cuba to carry out its present trade policy of diversifying exports.

It was reported also that Yugoslavia will soon send a powdered milk processing plant to our country with a production capacity of 20 tons daily. The plant has been bought for installation in Camaguey.

GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON 5-DAY VISIT

FL180058 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Rashleigh Jackson, minister of foreign affairs of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, has arrived in Cuba at the head of delegation to pay an official and friendly visit. The Guyanese foreign minister and the persons accompanying him were received at Jose Marti International Airport by Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban minister of foreign relations.

During its 5-day visit to our country, the Guyanese delegation will hold official conversations in the Cuban Foreign Ministry and will visit sites of economic, historical, and social interest.

Received by Risquet

FL200222 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of Politburo and Secretariat, this morning received Rashleigh Jackson, minister of the party's Central Committee headquarters. Jackson has been paying an official and friendly visit to Cuba since last Sunday. During the meeting, which took place in a cordial environment of mutual understanding, the two leaders discussed the strengthening of relations between the two countries and studied problems related to the international situation.

Also present were Isidoro Malmierca, Central Committee member and minister of foreign relations; Lazaro Cabezas, Cuban ambassador to Guyana, and other officials.

GUYANESE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR COOPERATION TALKS

FL142008 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Winston Murray, minister of state for internal trade and consumer protection of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, has arrived in Havana. Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, received Murray and those accompanying him at Jose Marti International Airport, The Guyanese minister heads his country's delegation which will participate, starting tomorrow, in the 11th meeting of the joint Cuban-Guyanese Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation. Cuba aids Guyana in public health, education, agriculture, and sports. A medical brigade encompassing 25 health specialties is now in that brother country.

ANTIGUA-BARBUDA

UNDP FORMED BY MERGER OF TWO POLITICAL PARTIES

FL202242 Bridgetown CANA in English 2211 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 20, CANA -- Two opposition political parties in Antigua have announced a merger.

The United Peoples Movement [UPM] led by former Premier George Walter and the newly formed National Democratic Party (NDP), led by surgeon Dr Ivor Heath, have now become the United National Democratic Party (UNDP).

A five-man working committee of executive members of the UPM and the NDP has been set up to administer the affairs of the new party and to prepare for its first convention next month. The officers are: Wilmoth Daniel, chairman; Lionel Gomes, assistant chairman; Heath, party spokesman; Len Johnson, secretary; and Glentis Goodwin, treasurer.

Goodwin, Gomes and Daniel contested seats on behalf of the UPM in the 1984 general election and lost their deposits.

Elections are not due for another three years. The ruling Antigua Labour Party holds all but one of the seats in parliament.

HAITI

GOURGE RESIGNS FROM GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

PA210009 Paris AFP in Spanish 2317 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Lawyer Gerard Gourge, minister of justice and one of the two civilians who are members of the National Government Council (CNG) in Haiti, presented his resignation today.

He explained his decision in a letter to CNG President General Henri Namphy, saying that "42 days after the CNA's creation, the mandatory work for recovery, and the changes demanded by all the Haitian people, the CNG is encountering opposition and delays which are contrary to our national demands."

"I shall return to the post of president of the Human Rights League, and I will continue the struggle for the defense of all the Haitians' human rights," Gerard Gourge told AFP.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

MINISTERS IMPLICATED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING

FL201206 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] In Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, three government ministers and several police officers have been named in a commission of inquiry report on narcotic trafficking in Trinidad. THE MIRROR newspaper reported the outcome of the commission of inquiry but did not identify the government ministers or describe their alleged role in drug trafficking. The commission was appointed in 1984 amid public pressure to investigate drug trafficking in the island.

GUYANA

3-YEAR $30-MILLION TRADE PROTOCOL WITH GDR SIGNED

FL131926 Bridgetown CANA in English 1858 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 13, CANA -- Guyana and East Germany have signed a three-year trade protocol worth US30 million dollars. Agreements were signed in East Berlin at the weekend by Trade Minister Winston Murray, who returned home yesterday. Teams from both countries discussed economic co-operation at wide-randing levels, according to government sources, who added that at least three joint projects could come on stream this year.

Murray said: The visit has strengthened the basis of co-operation between Guyana and the GDR and has laid the foundation for at least one project in the near future.

Under the protocol, it is envisaged that Guyana will export 30 million dollars of commodities to East Germany from 1986 to 1988, including timber and bauxite, processed fruit, and alcohol. The minister said the GDR was interested in increasing bauxite purchases from Guyana. Guyana will import tractors, rice harvesters, a 10-ton rice mill, drugs and other hospital supplies, and newsprint. Spares for rice mills, trucks, and other commodities will also come from East Germans.

Joint venture arrangements will involve exploration for gold and diamonds and other minerals, government officials said. The East European country is moving to send a mission to Guyana to examine relevant data and visit sites to work out details of joint venture projects in the gold and diamond sectors. Interest has also been expressed in joint venture projects for rice and soya bean production.

Ten Guyanese are to be sent to East Germany this year for training in several fields. A Guyana-GDR joint commission meets alternately in Georgetown and East Berlin.

PANAMA

PRESIDENT, CABINET REJECT MARCOS' ASYLUM REQUEST

PA211213 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] At the moment when we went to the press we were told that the cabinet and the presidents and leaders of the National Democratic Union, at a meeting held at the Presidency of the Republic, agreed to reject the request for temporary asylum by former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos. The source indicated that the meeting presided over by President Eric Arturo Delvalle, followed by an exchange of opinions, decided to reject the request by the former Philippines president to stay in our country temporarily.

Negotiations Continue

PA211228 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1212 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] President Eric Arturo Delvalle has announced Panama's rejection of the Marcos asylum petition, but negotiations with the United States over a temporary asylum for the former Philippine dictator continued early today.

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UBALDINI DENIES SECRET MEETING WITH ALFONSIN

PY232201 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Mar 86 p 13

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- General Confederation of Labour (CGT) secretary-general Saul Ubaldini strongly denied yesterday that he and President Raul Alfonsin were planning a secret meeting to try to head off next Tuesday's general strike. He spoke to the press after a meeting of the CGT executive council in which further plans were laid down for the 10-hour national stoppage. "I would never meet with the president behind closed doors," said Ubaldini, also denying that the CGT had been in contact with government officials in a last-ditch effort to prevent the strike.

He said the strike would be lifted if the government met CGT demands but said that after Friday's speech by Economic Coordination Secretary Adolfo Canitrot, "we have very few hopes." Canitrot said in his speech that the government will gradually lift price controls and will be present in all wage negotiations to make sure businessmen are not too generous in conceding increases. The general strike -- the fifth during this government -- will last from noon to 10 pm on Tuesday and will be accompanied by a demonstration at the intersection of 9 de Julio and Independencia avenues.

In Cordoba, meanwhile, busdrivers continued the 28-hour strike they began unexpectedly at 8 pm Friday night in demand of better salaries. Short-, medium-, and long-distance service was paralyzed throughout the province, though buses from outside the province arrived and departed normally. The local bus-owners' association said it would punish striking drivers because the period of binding arbitration ordered by provincial labor minister Jorge Sappia said he could offer only a five percent salary increase, retroactive to January, against the 30 percent increase demanded by drivers. In Buenos Aires, Jose Piva, president of the busowners' federation (FATAP), resigned reportedly over disagreements with FATAP officials who want to take a harder line with the government in demands for fare increases.

In other labour news, the CGT issued a statement criticizing what it called the economy ministry's meddling in labour issues. The government "has suspended labour legality and substituted it with mathematical calculations, drawn up by economic officials," said the CGT, adding that those officials "have a sum of power undreamt of even in the times of absolutism and slavery."

Deputy and tobacco workers leader Roberto Digon (Peronist-City) criticized the 52 Organizations for its secret negotiations with the government, saying "the union leaders who tell the public about internal differences in the workers' movement are the same ones who negotiate (with the government) behind the backs of the workers." Radio announcers and operators will stage a 24-hour strike as of noon today to demand salary increases. Their union said one announcer will stay at stations in case of emergency messages.

Strike Positions Reaffirmed

PY222200 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Mar 86 p 11

[Text] [NA-DYN] -- The war of words between the CGT and the government intensified yesterday, five days before the CGT's planned ten-hour general strike and two days after the unions rejected the government's latest offer to head off the strike. Adolfo Canitrot, economic co-ordination secretary, insisted the government "will hold firm to its programme, even though the CGT keeps calling strikes." He said officialdom "guarantees social peace much more by maintaining its line than by giving in" to CGT pressures."

Lower House speaker Juan Carlos Pugliese called Tuesday's planned strike a "deformation of democracy," adding that the CGT "wants to make us look like we broke election promises but we aren't the country's laggards." "These attitudes (from the CGT) don't make the pie any bigger. The ideal thing would be to sit down at a table and seek solutions," said Pugliese.

The CGT issued a strongly-worded statement saying the Radical party "has become a pressure group against organized labour" and urged workers to reject any "government pressure" not to strike. Referring to reports that the Radicals will mount a media campaign against the strike, the CGT called on workers to "ignore provocations in the communications media or by direct action from civilian groups,"

In an improvised speech before a plenary meeting of the 62 Organizations Peronist union bloc, CGT secretary general Saul Ubaldini said that "this is not a democracy" and that the only difference between current economic policies and those of the dictatorship is that "one economy minister was named (Jose) Martinez de Hoz and the other one's name is (Juan Sourrouille)." At the meeting, the 62 Organizations threw its "fervent support" behind the strike, called for free collective wage bargaining and put off electing a new leadership until April.

Senator Antonio Berhaongaray (Radical-La Pampa) told a Tucuman radio programme that the Peronists "are taking political action through the CGT" and that the government is not looking for a stand-off with the unions "because these are not times to fight each other." Responding to Berhongaray, deputy Roberto Garcial (Peronist-City) said that if Berhongaray "worked like men who earn 100 australs, he'd realize that it's not just a Peronist issue." Presidential chief-of-staff Carlos Becerra said the government is ready to discuss "positions, idea, and (wage) figures" but not during the present "confrontation."

Meanwhile, a labour ministry spokesman flatly denied Thursday night that Minister Hugo Barrionuevo was about to resign, calling the rumours to that effect "disgraceful." The Council of Argentine Industry (CAI) warned on Thursday that confrontation between the CGT and the government could become "irreversible" and called on both sides "to take urgent measures" to get talks moving again.

In other labour news, trains in Greater Buenos Aires will operate at near-normal levels during Tuesday's strike. The railway workers' union said it supported the strike but would keep up service so that people could get to the mass demonstration planned by the CGT at the intersection of 9 de Julio and Independencia avenues. Some 5,000 construction workers marched on the labour and economy ministries, and the Argentine Construction Chamber, and finally CGT headquarters, where they were met by Ubaldini, as part of a series of stoppages and demonstrations by hard-hats around the country. A simultaneous march was held in Parana. Construction workers' union (UOCRA) leader Juan Alejo Farias said in a speech that "if the government does not want to talk with leaders, it will have to do it in the street with workers."

About 1,000 Mercedes-Benz workers demonstrated outside a downtown hotel Thursday night to protest low wages while management dined inside to celebrate the German automobile firm's 100th anniversary. The health workers' union (FATSA) announced a 24-hour general strike for April 7 and another 48-hour strike for April 24-25 to demand salary increases and improved work conditions. Private hospitals will also strike on April 7.

Police in Tucuman reported late Thursday night that two busdrivers were injured and hospitalized when the buses they were driving were attacked by unknown assailants. One driver had bullet wounds and the other was bruised by a slingshot. A study by the Latin American Economic Research Foundation (FIEL) released yesterday said that purchasing power for public company employees has increased 15 percent since the start of the Austral Plan. Central administration employees' purchasing power went down with respect to June 1985, however. In the manufacturing sector, FIEL said that purchasing power increased by up to 15 percent among the least-skilled sectors but stayed roughly even, at higher levels. In nearly all sectors, the increase was due mainly to lower inflation rather than higher wages.

BRITISH MP'S TO VISIT FALKLAND ISLANDS

PY211748 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] It has been reported in London that a British congressional delegation will travel to the Malvinas Islands next week. The delegation will observe what has been done to provide for the defense of the islands, and will inspect the highways and a new airport being built at Mount Pleasant.

MILITARY-CIVILIAN DELEGATION LEAVES FOR PERU

PY210013 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1913 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (TELAM) -- A delegation of retired Argentine military officers and civilians this afternoon left for Peru to hold meetings with Peruvian officers, politicians, and military men to invite them to participate in the second Latin American forum on defense scheduled for Buenos Aires in April.

The delegation includes Latin American Argentine Unity Center (UALA) President Julio Urien; Brigadier General Carlos French, retired; General Jorge Leal, retired; Center of Military Officers for Democracy (Cemida) President Ernesto Lopez Meyer; Colonel Cesar Diaz, retired; Major Oscar Vijande, retired; and Hector Beiroa, the secretary general of the Center of Malvinas War Veterans, among others.

French, Diaz, and Vijande explained to TELAM that the forum intends to create a Latin American armed forces organization that will endorse popular liberation movements with concrete proposals for decolonization and for overcoming [words indistinct] as an alternative to U.S. impositions. They emphasized the need to defend common interests without losing individuality and recalled the three key issues discussed by (Peruvian President) Alan Garcia: the Malvinas, Central America (Grenada and Nicaragua), and the foreign debt.

French, Diaz, and Vijande stated that we should not forget the Malvinas issue because the continent is full of Malvinas issues, like the foriegn debt, famine, culture, and the technology transfer, which is why we are going to express thanks for the solidarity the Peruvian people expressed for us. On the other hand, French, Diaz, Vijande, and former Midshipman Urien said that the current defense bill is just a bill for the Armed Forces. Argentina and Latin America need a realistic defense bill based on what the people need, because the armies are an expression of the people.

PRESIDENT PAZ ON POSSIBLE COGOVERNMENT WITH ADN

PY212255 La Paz Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Victor Paz Estenssoro yesterday said that the validity, contiuation, and provisions of the pact for democracy with the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] will be reviewed when General Hugo Banzer Saurez returns to the country. President Paz called this press conference in order to explain to newsmen -- since only managers of the media had participated in the previous day's press conference -- the draft law on taxes which the executive branch has submitted to the Congress.

During the press conference, the newsmen asked the president about certain political aspects of the situation. The president was also asked about what was happening to the pact for democracy. The president answered that it would be analyzed upon Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez' return,. Regarding the possibility of a cogovernment, the president said that in politics anything can happen. Therefore he did not dismiss the possibility that the political and economic crisis might be solved later on through a cogovernment with the ADN, although his answer was not very specific. On the other hand, referring to the national economic situation, the president said that when he took office on 6 August 1985 the country had really been in crisis, and the situation had been totally different and worrisome.

HUANUNI MINERS TAKE 2 COMIBOL OFFICIALS HOSTAGE

PY221925 Paris AFP in Spanish 1420 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Union leaders reported here today that engineer Carlos Melgarejo and economist Carlos Elias, of the Bolivian Mining Corporation (Comibol), were captured inside a mine in Huanuni district (250 km southwest of La Paz) and are being held hostage there. The sources added that these people will not be released until Comibol agrees to replenish food stores and raise the miners' wages.

It has been reported that in the next few hous the government of Victor Paz Estenssoro will send a high level delegation to Huanuni to obtain the release of the two hostages.

BRIEFS

RESULTS OF ANTIDRUG OPERATORS -- Santa Cruz -- Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Cassazola, who until today was acting director of the Santa Cruz Department for the Control of Dangerous Substances, has said that during operations carried out in this department over the past 3 months a total of 437,470 grams of cocaine was seized. According to Cassazola's report, a total of 44 persons are involved. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Mar 86 p 8 PY]

SPECIAL POLICE FORCE DISMANTLED -- Cochabamba Colonel Jaime Barrera, new director of the Department for the Control of Dangerous Substances, disclosed that the Specialized Rural Police Force [Policia Rural Especializada -- PRE] has been dismantled in order to put the troops under a single command. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 7 Mar 86 p 9 PY]

ABREU SODRE SAYS REAGAN'S REMARKS 'GROUNDLESS'

PY211415 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Mar 86 p 6

[Text] Punta Arenas — Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre termed "groundless" the charges made by Ronald Reagan that Nicaragua is encouraging guerrilla activities in Brazil. During a stopover at the Chilean city Punta Arenas the day before yesterday, on his way to the Antarctic, Sodre said that it "was a misinterpretation." The foreign minister said that "President Reagan's remarks are groundless" and added that the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia has already explained that the charges are unfounded.

Yesterday in Brasilia four deputies protested in the Chamber of Deputies about "Reagan's interference in Brazilian domestic issues" while Deputy Cunha Bueno (Social Democratic Party representative for Sao Paulo) said that he did not believe Reagan was acting in bad faith or that he was misinformed. For this reason, he requested that the foreign minister and chief of the National Intelligence Center, SNI, be summoned to explain before the Chamber of Deputies about "the training and movement of guerrilla elements in national territory sponsored by foreign countries."

The deputy also proposed that the Justice Minister be asked for information regarding the amount of Costa Rican, Honduran, Panamanian, and Nicaraguan citizens who have visited Brazil during the past 2 years. Other deputies that referred to this issue were Marcio Santilli (Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party representative for Sao Paulo), who noted the "shock" of the Brazilian people at the charges by Reagan, who said that Brazilian guerrillas are allegedly being trained in Nicaragua; Jose Genoino (Workers Party representative for Sao Paulo), who is a former Araguaia guerrilla himself, who repudiated Regan's statements and urged the U.S. House of Representatives to turn down his request to finance the Nicaraguan "contras"; and Cristina Tavares (PMDB representative for Pernabuco) and Joao Marques (PMDB representative for Porto Alegre), who voiced their solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and criticized President Reagan.

Seeks Corroboration

PY211658 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] President Ronald Reagan's charges continue to be the topic of the day here in Brazil. Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre has stated that if the U.S. President does not corroborate his statements, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry will issue a note of surprise which, in the diplomatic language, is used only for serious and unacceptable developments. When asking the U.S. Congress for financial aid for Nicaraguan rebels linked to the (?late) dictator Anastasio Somoza, Reagan alluded to the existence of guerrilla training camps in Brazil [as heard].

NOBISTOR WEAPONS CONTAINER SEALS FOUND BROKEN

PY211537 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] The Federal Police force continues to investigate the case of the vessel seized in Rio de Janeiro with its cargo of 6 tons of weapons. The Argentine and U.S. crewmen are being advised by lawyers hired by their respective consulates.

Yesterday morning, Osvaldo Galleiros, superintendent of the Federal Police force in Rio de Janeiro, made contact with Panamanian Consul Joaquin Franco. The consul wanted details about the Panamanian-flag vessel's logbook. Later, Galleros received the Argentine counsel to Rio de Janeiro, (Jose Dagos), Naval Attache Ismael Garcia, and the head of the Argentine Customs Police, Roberto Pitaluga. These three authorities delivered some documents to Galleiros, the contents of which will be disclosed today, 21 March. The equipment and weapons continue to be guarded by the 1st Army Corp while an official decision is being made. The Federal Police are investigating the violation of the seals of the containers where the weapons were stored. The seals were already broken when the vessel was seized. Consequently, it is likely that some of the weapons were sent to another destination or were sold by one of the crewmen here in Rio de Janeiro.

RENEWAL OF MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH U.S. UNLIKELY

PY211415 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0542 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 21 Mar (EFE) -- It is improbable that Brazil would be willing to extend the maritime agreement signed in 1974 with the U.S. Government, which expires in December of this year after several conflictive renewals. According to Brazilian maritime sources, "after heated meetings in Rio and New York," there is growing concern over "the profound difference of opinions" and the upcoming expiration of the agreement, which has in the past been renewed for short periods.

The U.S. Government defends "freedom of traffic" without protection for the shipowners, and it opposes the system of "prescribed cargo," by which coffee, cocoa, and some manufactured products can only be transported by members of the cargo "pool" (Lloyd, Netumar, Nacional, and United States Lines).

Oswaldo Rutter, an official of the National Superintendency of the Merchant Marine (Sunama) said that "Brazil advocates a policy of reserved cargo because it does not have the capital to compete with the super companies of the large countries." Rutter added that "we want a fair freight system but with cargo guarantees for our shipowners, a position that is also defended by other Latin American countries."

SARNEY DENIES PRICE FREEZE TO BE LIFTED

PY210034 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] President Jose Sarney said today that the price freeze will not be suspended in 90 days, according to an announcement by Government House spokesman Fernando Cesar Mesquita.

[Begin recording] All the speculation about the possibility that the price freeze will be lifted in 3 months has been refuted by the President Sarney, who categorically affirmed that there are no possibilities of suspending the price feeze. [end recording]

Funaro Agrees

PY211643 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Planning Minister Dilson Funaro has agreed with President Sarney's statement over the price freeze and said that his comments had been misinterpreted by a newspaper. Funaro said that the government will continue to closely watch prices even when the economy becomes stable. The price policy will be inflexible. It is here to stay.

DEL VALLE DISCUSSES U.S. CONGRESS' AID VOTE

PY220150 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today reiterated his charges that groups that have infiltrated Chile have joined up with local groups to promote terrorism in the country. He thus confirmed statements that were made by President Reagan on this same topic. Jose Francisco Contreras has a report for us on this matter. Jose Francisco, please tell us what you know. Did the foreign minister say anything about the U.S. Congress' negative vote on the request for economic aid for the anti-Sandinists that was asked for by President Reagan? Jose Francisco, good evening.

[Contreras] Good evening. The minister declined to comment on this topic. The foreign minister said that the Foreign Ministry will not give an opinion, but that he personally believes that it is a topic that is typically an internal affair of the United States. He said that if President Reagan sends a draft bill to Congress and Congress says no or yes, then it is an internal problem. The minister recalled that Chile fully supports the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. President Reagan's charges regarding an eventual terrorist plan that is affecting several Latin American countries were mentioned to Del Valle, and the minister answered:

[Begin recording] We have very good information about the charge that has been made by President Reagan, because we are one of the victims of the terrorist plans and we know that it is not only Chileans that are operating in Chile, because we are being infiltrated from other countries and this is something I have said repeatedly [words indistinct]. [end recording]

[Contreras] Finally, the minister stated that this has been reported by Chile to various international organizations and friendly countries. The minister stated that we believe that they must adopt measures, but the decisions that they make and the results are their internal problem and we cannot meddle, he concluded.

Good evening.

FOREIGN MINISTRY RECEIVES U.S. EMBASSY DOCUMENTS

PY221324 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] The U.S. Embassy has reported that Ambassador Harry Barnes will travel to the Antarctic region to obtain first-hand knowledge of the area. The embassy pointed out that Ambassador Barnes is aware that his country and Chile have great interest in carrying out scientific research in the area. Meanwhile, an embassy spokesman has refused to comment on an envelope with documents handed over to Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle. The spokesman said: We cannot make any comment because the exchange of documents at the diplomatic level is confidential. For their part, foreign ministry sources have said that the documents have some clarifications on the talks that Del Valle and Ambassador Harry Barnes have held over the past few days.

AIR FORCE TO UPDATE MIRAGE-50 AIRCRAFT

PY202230 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p C2

[Text] Chile will adapt the latest technological developments to its French-made Mirage-50 aircraft. This is established in an agreement signed yesterday between the Chilean Air Force [FACh] and the National Aeronautics Enterprise (ENAER). According to the ENAER executive manager, General Caupolican Boisset Mujica, "this is the most important agreement my enterprise has reached on the modernization of aircraft in the past 2 years."

The agreement was signed yesterday at the grounds of FIDA-86 [International Aeronautics Fair]. The ceremony was presided over by FACh chief of staff General Carlos Desgroux Camus. It was attended by most of the FACh generals, and FIDA representatives and exhibitors were also present. The agreement was signed by General Pablo Saldias Maripangue, commander of the Air Force Logistics Support Department, and by ENAER executive manager General Caupolican Boisset Mujica. The Mirage-50 is the most modern aircraft in the FACh inventory. ANAER has already fitted "Canard" wings on Mirage-50 aircraft, improving the Mirage-50's performance.

Gen Desgroux told EL MERCURIO that the ENAER achievements in the modernization of the Mirage-50's "reflect the maturity achieved by the aeronautics industry of Chile." He said that it is the result of the great efforts made to obtain and incorporate foreign technology, which have yielded positive results in a very short time. He also explained that the use of local manpower and the development by ENAER of all the phases of training and national technologies is very important. Regarding the costs, Chile will cut them by 50 to 60 percent compared to what it would cost on the international market.

Desgroux noted the importance of the effect this activity has on other similar fields, such as aerodynamics, hydraulics, etc. He stated that the addition of "Canard" wings will improve the aircraft's performance, especially at high altitudes while operating at lower speeds, which will help the pilot carry out maneuvers difficult to perform with a conventional aircraft. Another important factor is the reduction of the aircraft's taxiing distance and the wearing out of brakes and tires.

Accompanied by his aide, Squadron Commander Vicente Von Teuber, Gen Desgroux disclosed that "probably, in the future, this service could be granted to other air forces of the continent that have the same material, which ENAER can handle perfectly." General Pablo Saldias, head of the Logistics Department, revealed that one of the Air Force's objectives is to optimize its means of operation, which is precisely what this agreement seeks.

PINOCHET EXPECTS RELATIONS WITH PERU TO IMPROVE

PY202320 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] President Pinochet today said that the coming talks with Peru will improve the understanding between the countries. He made this statement when he received the credentials of the new Peruvian ambassador to Chile, Luis Marchand Stens, during a ceremony held in the O'Higgins Hall of Government House.

DRIVE FOR DEMOCRACY IN SANTIAGO TURNS VIOLENT

PY202157 Paris AFP in Spanish 2101 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Chilean labor leader Rodolfo Seguel and dozens of other demonstrators were arrested in Santiago today while participating in a drive for democracy supported by many organizations that oppose General Augusto Pinochet's regime.

In various neighborhoods of the Chilean capital and at union headquarters, universities, hospitals, and other public places, the organizers of the drive installed ballot boxes and invited citizens to vote either for democracy or dictatorship.

It will fall...it will fall, obviously meaning the dictatorship's fate was constantly chanted by demonstrators around the ballot boxes while they distributed printed ballots to passersby. Democracy now was yet another slogan of the demonstrators throughout the drive, which turned violent when the Carabineros moved in to break up antigovernment marches with watercannons and tear gas.

Rodolfo Seguel, president of the National Workers Command [CNT], was arrested during one of these incidents when the Carabineros broke up a street rally that hundreds of professionals and workers were holding in downtown Santiago.

Fanny Pollarolo, one of the leaders of the left-wing Democratic Popular Movement (MDP); Jorge Pavez, president of the Trade Union Association of Chilean Teachers (AGEh); leaders of the Catholic University Student Federation; and members of several labor unions also were arrested during the demonstrations, according to eyewitnesses.

The main incidents took place at the National Library, on the Paseo Ahumada Avenue, on Huerfanos Street, and on Liberator Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue near the La Moneda Presidential Palace. It was hard to breath in downtown Santiago because of the tear gas. In addition, traffic was disrupted, and many stores closed their doors early this afternoon.

The situation also was tense at the Engineering School of the Chilean National University and at the Teachers Academy, where students were holding rallies while police personnel were being deployed around the building.

The workers neighborhoods around Santiago are calm, and the ballot boxes in neighborhood community centers and Catholic parish houses remain open.

171 Arrested, 4 Wounded

PY212137 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] The violent actions organized, instigated, and implemented by extremist opposition political sectors resulted in 4 people wounded, 9 Carabinero officials injured, and 171 detainees. Concerning the arrests, the police have said that officially 142 people were arrested in Santiago and 29 people were arrested in the provinces.

The official account also states that a Carabinero officer and eight Carabineros are among the police officials attacked by subversives. Chilena Rubillo Rojas, 23, presented herself to a state medical service office at 2125 and was the first injury reported. Rubillo Rojas stated that she was walking south on General Velasquez Avenue and that when she reached Iquique Street was hit by a bullet fired by unidentified individuals from a passing car. She was hit in her right forearm. Edgardo Pinilla Avendano, a 16-year-old, arrived at the Central Hospital 5 minutes later. Pinilla Avendano, who lives in Lo Prado District, reported that he was wounded during demonstrations held at the intersection of General Velasquez Avenue and Los Veteranos del 79 street. A third victim was identified as Jose Mario Correa Bahamonde, 22, who was hit by a bullet at the intersection of Vicuna Mackenna Avenue and Camino Agricola street.

In conclusion, Elena Contreras Safmeir was hit by a bullet in her right leg at the intersection of San Francisco and Copiapo Streets.

NATIONAL ACCORD SIGNATORIES MEET, PLEDGE SUPPORT

PY202124 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpts] All the signatories of the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy held a meeting this morning to reassert their full support of the original accord. In addition, they agreed to work for the restoration of democracy as soon as possible by using peaceful methods of struggle.

The only exception was the National Unity Movement, MUN, which insisted upon its previously reported stand: The MUN rejects social mobilization and approves of Pinochet staying in power until 1989. This position is not shared by any of the other political forces.

Democratic Alliance [AD] President Armando Jaramillo emphasized that efforts will be made to strengthen the National Accord by focusing on concrete tasks.

National Party [PN] leader Pedro Correa stated that his party reasserted its full support of the National Accord and that the PN will work to achieve a dialogue between the civilians and the military. Correa emphasized that the PN does not endorse — although the PN respects it -- the strategy of social mobilization.

At the conclusion of the meeting, National Accord coodinator Sergio Molina spoke to journalists.

[Begin recording] It was a good meeting because it was very frank. All the participants expressed their opinion on the current situation. All of them, without exception, consider the National Accord a substantive political event which, although it has not yielded any results because the government has refused to hold any type of negotiations or talks, is fully valid. [end recording]

Sergio Molina emphasized, however, that in the past few weeks important changes have been taking place within governmental circles. He stated that this is encouraging our hopes that a dialogue between the civilians and the military will soon be possible. Molina described as positive the fact that within the government there are an increasing number of officials who are willing to make changes in the 1980 Constitution.

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS CURFEW 90 MORE DAYS

PY201513 Paris AFP in Spanish 1356 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Santiago, 20 Mar (AFP) -- The Santiago Military Command today approved the extension for a further 90 days of the night curfew, and the restriction on the right to assembly, continuing the powers to repress people who commit vandalism, looting, sabotage and terrorism.

QUEVEDO CLARIFIES FEBRES COMMENTS ON NICARAGUA

PA212138 Paris AFP in Spanish 2248 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Quito, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Today Patricio Quevedo, the national secretary of public information of Ecuador, evaluated President Leon Febres' recent declarations on Nicaragua which, according to Quevedo, have been misinterpreted. In a communique, Guevedo explained that Febres Cordero never claimed "to be a supporter of U.S. aid to the anti-Sandinists in Nicaragua," as several media have reported. Quevedo, who acts as a government spokesman, repeated verbatim the words used by President Febres.

"My point of view regarding Nicaragua is very clear. Everybody intervenes in Nicaragua. Let us not blindfold ourselves. All combinations of political colors intervene in Nicaragua's internal life: Blues, reds, and pinks." Immediately afterward, President Febres said: "There is a group of Nicaraguans who are stuggling for freedom. If they succeed in getting support, the only thing that will occur is that forces will then be more balanced, since the Nicaraguan regime also has foreign support. The large supply of weapons that the regime uses does not exactly come from heaven."

NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR U.S.

PA231835 Paris AFP in Spanish 1745 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 23 Mar (AFP) -- The president of the National Congress of Ecuador, Averroes Bucaram, left this morning for the United States on a 5-day visit at the official invitation of the U.S. government. Bucaram was seen off this morning by several deputies and members of the Concentration of Popular Forces (CIF) of which he is the leader. During his stay in the United States he will visit Washington and New York. Among his most important activities are a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and a visit to the U.S. Congress. Bucaram is accompanied by the chairman of the International Affairs Commission of Congress, Deputy Leonardo Escobar; his aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Colonel Mario Bonilla; and advisers Polibio Cordova and Javier Barcos.

VARGAS GETS CHECK-UP; LAWYER INTERVIEWED

PA212327 Quito RadioQuito in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] It has unofficially been reported that Lieutenant General Frank Vargas Pazzos was treated early today at the Armed Forces' general hospital, where several checkups were made to determine the state of his health and consider the possibility of his being admitted for closer observation. In addition, Vargas Pazzos' counsel for the defense, Dr Jose Guerrero, has said that his defense will be based on showing that, in the problems that occurred both in Manta and Quito and in which Vargas participated, no political plot was involved but that it was a purely military conflict.

[Begin recording] [Guerrero] I visited the Vencedores barracks this morning [words indistinct]. I was received by Colonel De la Torre, who introduced me to Gen Vargas, who awaited my visit as his lawyer. I was accompanied by Dr Hugo Calero. Vargas currently suffers health problems because he has had several accidents through his military life. Some of the consequences of these accidents must be controlled almost daily.

He must have a medical checkup based on his complete medical history. [Words indistinct]. During our conversation, he confirmed his statements. [Words indistinct]. He said that he never tried to destablize the government or to defy the Armed Forces or democracy. His only intention was to protest the undisciplined actions against the FAE [Ecuadoran Armed Forces], and the (?outrage) of its highest-ranking representative, Gen Vargas. He also said that there had been no political plot against democracy, but a demand for discipline.

[Question] The president of the Republic, however, said during a radio and television address that one of the general's crimes had been to plot against democracy.

[Guerrero] During this radio and television address, the president made statements that were far from true. Gen Vargas never plotted a conspiracy. He never conspired. All of his actions were essentially military.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Is this the truth? Are the documents that the president presented legal?

[Guerrero] The documents presented on television must be real. We cannot doubt the words of the country's first citizen. All that can be construed from all these documents, however, is that Gen Vargas did his legal part in the purchase of an aircraft. There is absolutely nothing that indicates a conspiracy. There is arguments presented by President Leon Febres Cordero [words indistinct] because it shows that Gen Vargas has always been faithful to his duty.

[Question] Some time ago, the former defense minister's legal adviser [words indistinct] conversation in which Gen Vargas was charged with permitting a sort of commission for a specific amount on behalf of the FAE.

[Guerrero] I do not remember this because I still had not assumed the general's defense. I only heard about it. I have no details on this. The truth, however, will surely be known. We lawyers feel that the best way to get justice is to establish truth. This is why I have assumed Gen Vargas' defense. I believe he is a fair man. We will establish truth and show that he is innocent of the charges. [end recording]

Incommunicado Status Lifted

PA232301 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Colonel Gonzalo Fernandez, retired, president of the Military Court of Justice, has decided to lift the incommunicado status of Lieutenant General Frank Vargas Pazzos. Orders in this regard have been issued to the commander of the Vencedores Battalion Garrison where General Vargas Pazzos is being held.

MASS, MARCH MARK ANNIVERSARY OF ABC'S CLOSURE

PY221850 Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Asuncion, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Several hundred demonstrators have demanded that the newspaper ABC COLOR, which was closed by the Paraguayan Government, be reopened. In a march today through downtown Asuncion, the demonstrators also demanded democracy and the end of Genral Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship. The demonstration started spontaneously after a thanksgiving mass at the cathedral by Archbishop Msgr Ismael Rolon. After the mass, nearly 400 people marched from the church to the ABC COLOR building.

In his homily, Msgr Rolon prayed for those who are hurting the people and urged them to change their attitude, in a clear allusion to Paraguayan Government officials charged with curtailing public liberties. Asserting that the truth will make us free, Msgr Rolon asked all his parishioners to become aware of this situation and to make every effort to promote the truth.

After the mass, journalist Alcibiades Delvalle and Jose Gasper Meaurio, secretary general of the Paraguayan Association of journalists, addressed a group of people gathered outside the church. They once again demanded that ABC COLOR, which was closed 2 years ago by the government on charges of inciting subversion and hatred, be reopened. Meaurio called upon union, student, and peasant organizations as well as on all democratic institutions to make a joint effort to fully enforce the right to work, freedom of organization and expression, and freedom of information.

Later, university students demanded a popular mobilization to overthrow the dictatorship. Carmen de Lara Castro, chairwoman of the Paraguayan Human Rights Commission, asked that no more masses be said for ABC COLOR because it looked more like celebrating its death rather than demanding its reopening. Miguel Abdon Saguier, leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), who was recently detained and harshly beaten by policemen at a PLRA meeting, urged the crowd to march with him to the ABC COLOR building. The enthusiastic crowd started the march shouting antigovernment slogans while uniformed policemen looked on.

Pedestrians, store attendants, and street peddlers cheered the marchers on Palma Street. A march like this has been unheard of in Asuncion for several decades. Car drivers blew their horns and many people spontaneously joined the march. The most frequently chanted slogans were: The military dictatorship will end; a united people will never be defeated; freedom and democracy; ABC yes, dictatorship no.

INTERIOR MINISTER MINIMIZES AMERICAS WATCH VISIT

PY211832 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro yesterday minimized the significance of an Americas Watch human rights report on Paraguay because of the way of thinking of Americas Watch members. He said: "We gave them the appropriate answer on each case, and we have reaffirmed that we must have a strong government to defend democracy." These were the first remarks by Montanaro on the activities the Americas Watch delegation has been carrying out in our country since 18 March. Montanaro's remarks reflect the unwavering Paraguayan Government position that we ourselves should solve our problems.

Commenting on the questions raised by Patricia Derian, Patricia Pitman, and Scott Greathead in their talks with government officials, Montanaro said: "They usually focus their attention on anticommunist fighters, which we believe ourselves to be."

"They claim there have been human rights violations here. They have expressed concern over the newspaper ABC COLOR and the state of siege. To these questions, we have responded accordingly by asserting that we will continue to firmly defend democracy, aware that we must have a strong government to defend democracy. It is not possible to defend democracy with a weak government," Montanaro said. Montanaro said that the topics he discussed with the Americas Watch delegation were "subjects that were also discussed by the foreign minister, the defense minister, the justice minister, and the president himself." Thus, he said, they did not just ask "many questions" as some members of this delegation told the press.

Asked whether the activities of this foreign delegation could be regarded as interference, Montanaro categorically said: "No." He added: "They came here to collect information as members of a U.S. private organization. We do not have anything to conceal regarding our way of life, our political and institutional life, or regarding our government." The Americas Watch delegation came on this visit to check on specific reports released by relatives of some Paraguayan politicians. Montanaro said that among them are relatives of [Authentic Radical Liberal Party leader] Domingo Laino and of [Christian Democratic Party leader] Luis Alfonso Resck. Montanaro said: "We conveyed to them our viewpoints on each of these cases."

Montanaro said he was not surprised by the visit of the Americas Watch delegation. He said: "We regard it as a position that anyone can take." Then, he vehemently added: "Let them come to see how we are promoting development, and how political activities are being carried out in the country. They could also verify the extent to which freedom of the press is respected here. I would like to ask if any of you, journalists, were harassed or subjected to censorship in your work.

Montanaro did not express concern about the activities of the two Patricias and of Mr Scott Greathead. He said: "They represent a private institution. Their report will probably be based on what legal and illegal parties may tell them. I am not concerned about it because I assume what they are going to say. We know how they think and that they are not concerned about human rights violations in Nicaragua, Cuba, or in any other communist country. They just focus their attention on anticommunist fighters, which we believe ourselves to be."

PLRA CALLS FOR MOBILIZATION TO OUST STROESSNER

PY222011 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0146 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Asuncion, 21 Mar (EFE) -- Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) Secretary General Miguel Abdon Saguier today called for a "popular mobilization" to "remove" General Alfredo Stroessner "from power and from the country." This call was the answer that Abdon Saguier and his followers gave to the violent police repression, which occurred during a PLRA rally on 16 March, and marked the first act of resistance by demonstrators from the opposition in the 32 years of the Stroessner administration.

The Paraguayan opposition has regarded the PLRA resistance as "a historical fact and a possible starting point of a popular mobilization with a broader scope than the demonstrations that have been thus far staged." The call for a "popular mobilization" coincided with the opposition's announcement that the Stroessner government has agreed to let all parties within the National Accord stage public acts without prior official authorization, which has up until now been the standard procedure.

In a conversation with opposition leader Fernando Vera, president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PFR), a social democratic party, Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro guaranteed the right of assembly of the opposition. The PRF is one of the four parties that belong to the National Accord.

During a press conference, Saguier said that (on 16 March) "the Liberal people forced the regime to recognize an essential right that the regime had usurped and denied for 30 years." He added that the objective of the mobilization is to "remove" General Stroessner "from power and from the country," to designate a transitional civilian government, and to hold free presidential elections in 1987. Saguier expressed the hope that the two Liberal factions which are participating in the government, as well as the other National Accord parties -- the Social Democrats, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Colorado Popular Movement, which is a faction of the ruling party -- will answer his call to a "popular mobilization for democratic change."

MOPOCO DENOUNCES STROESSNER TO OAS RIGHTS PANEL

PY211306 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0212 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Montevideo, 20 Mar (EFE) -- A Paraguayan opposition group today charged at the OAS that the Paraguayan Government of President Alfredo Stroessner is one of the "most inhuman regimes that still survives, to the shame of Latin America." The accusation was presented in Montevideo by the Colorado Popular Movement (Mopoco) to the president of the OAS Human Rights Commission, Bolivian Adolfo Siles Salinas, who is visiting Uruguay. According to the Mopoco, the charges are based on "Stroessner's tyranny, on the terror imposed throughout the country, on the constant violations of human rights, on the implacable persecution of opposition leaders," and also on the fact that "Paraguay has the oldest political prisoner in Latin America: Captain Napoleon Ortigoza, who has been in prison for 24 uninterrupted years, under subhuman conditions."

BRIEFS

BRITISH TRADE DELEGATION -- A delegation of British businessmen arrived in Asuncion yesterday. During their stay in the country the British visitors will meet with local businessmen, members of the Chamber of Commerce, also with Feprinco [Paraguayan Industrial and Commercial Federation], some labor unions and members of the private sector. The delegation's main objective is to find distributors for their products, analyze the opportunities in the local agro-industrial field and the possibility of creating joint enterprises with local firms. [Summary] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Mar 86 p 11 PY]

GARCIA COMMENTS ON CONTRA AID, CUBAN TIES

PY221352 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Relay from Government House by Jose Tassara]

[Excerpts] Accompanied by Housing and Construction Minister Luis Bedoya Velez and Lima Prefect Jorge del Castillo, President Alan Garcia Perez today made an unexpected visit to La Union Plaza to inspect works under way for the installation of soup kitchen facilities. Later, Garcia answered questions from newsmen on the oil contracts, the U.S. Congress decision to vote down the $100-million aid package requested by President Reagan for the Nicaraguan contras, Garcia's trips to Panama and Uruguay, textbooks, and the shameful incidents that took place at Guadalupe School.

Let us now watch a film clip on President Garcia's activities this morning:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Last weekend you returned from Argentina. What do you think of the results of this trip?

[Garcia] It was very important for our country to the extent that it was instrumental in confirming that the Peruvian position is known and respected. I believe other Latin American peoples essentially support our position. Therefore, our decision to postpone our foreign payments to benefit our country and to safeguard its future -- which is the main thing -- has been supported by other countries and will thus be respected by our creditors.

[Reporter] In Argentina, you stated your position on the Nicaraguan conflict. Now that the U.S. House of Representatives has voted down a $120-million [as heard] aid bill for the Nicaraguan contras proposed by President Reagan, what is your opinion?

[Garcia] I believe it shows that there is no room for arbitrariness or abuses in the U.S. democracy and that when an issue has been thoroughly raised and debated, the representatives of the American people endorse the belief that they should not permit an inappropriate use of the great U.S. power. I welcome the U.S. House of Representatives' decision, because it shows respect for the Latin American peoples and that no one, no matter how mightly he may be, can interfere either economically or militarily with our destinies.

[Reporter] What is the current status of our relations with Cuba?

[Garcia] They are normal. We have always maintained diplomatic relations with Cuba, although for a while we had only attaches or charges d'affaires. A few months ago our ambassador to Havana was accredited, and the Cuban ambassador was also accredited here. Despite what some believe, this does not mean that just because we maintain relations with a country that has a political system like Cuba's, we will adopt the same political system. Democracy in our continent requires pluralism and the acceptance of the various existing political regimes. Our countries should maintain relations with each other.

[Reporter] (?Are there people) afraid of our relations with Cuba, Mr President?

[Garcia] I believe those are unfounded fears and suspicions. In line with our democratic position of fully respecting freedom of expression and opinion, of promoting democratic values and liberties, and of preserving justice and national independence, we are determined to maintain relations with all peoples, without exceptions. [end recording]

SOVIETS REPORTED FISHING IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

PY212303 Paris AFP in Spanish 1548 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Peruvian shipowners today complained in Lima that the Soviet fishing fleet Sovryflot continues fishing within the 30-mile Peruvian territorial waters, despite the fact that an agreement signed between Peru and Sovryflot was rescinded in August 1985. Peruvian shipowners, especially in the port of Chimbote, 412 km north of Lima, have complained to fishing authorities that the Soviet fleet continues fishing behind the authorities' backs, plundering the sea and virtually leaving no biomass for the Peruvian fishermen.

According to a government-to-government agreement, another Soviet fleet besides Sovryflot, including numerous trawlers for high-sea fishing, is fishing outside the 200-mile Peruvian territorial waters. This particular Soviet fleet has permission to dock at Peruvian ports from time to time for repairs and to replenish supplies. On the other hand, it was reported that nearly 20,000 Soviet crew members arrived at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in 1985 to work on the Soviet ships that are fishing within the territorial waters and beyond the 200-mile boundary.

PURCHASE OF 12 MIRAGE 2000'S CONFIRMED

PY230121 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2115 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Lima 22 Mar (EFE) -- Peru will purchase from the French firm Marcel Dassault only 12 Mirage 2000's of the 26 originally contracted, thus saving $570 million. Presidential adviser Hector Delgado Parker, who headed the Peruvian delegation that negotiated the reduction of the initial order of the Mirages, made this announcement today upon returning to Lima. Delgado Parker said that the 12 Mirages are an adequate deterrent and that the first lot of Mirages will arrive next May by ship. He did not say how many. He did not say how much the airplanes cost although Peru has already paid $140 million. Delgado Parker also said that Dassault will not enforce the clauses on fines and damages due to the reduction of the purchase. In conclusion he said that it is practically certain that the French Government will ratify the agreement.

NICARAGUAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED

PY221619 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 1245 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Interview with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera by Denis Vargas Marin in Lima -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Vargas] We will now get in touch with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera. Good morning, Mr Deputy Foreign Minister.

[Talavera] Good morning, Sir.

[Vargas] Before asking you about the objectives of your visit to Lima, we would like for you, as a Nicaraguan Government official, to comment on the U.S. House of Representatives' decision turning down President Ronald Reagan's request for aid for the Nicaraguan contras.

[Talavera] I'll be glad to. First I would like to tell the Peruvian people about the Nicaraguan Government's opinion on the vote that took place in the U.S. House of Representatives today. The U.S. lawmakers are discussing the manner in which the U.S. executive branch has requested military aid to continue with its war of aggression against Nicaragua. We want to state clearly that the fact that the Congress of a country should vote on the allocation of large sums to be used to attack another country is against the law and against moral principles. In this case, the situation is even more serious, because the U.S. Government maintains diplomatic relations with Nicaragua. We wish that no congress in the world or in this continent would ever arbitrarily discuss budgets for attacking another country. From this viewpoint, we would like to point out that the House's decision does not imply that the U.S. Government will immediately change its policy toward our country, because the matter now goes to the Senate, where Reagan's Republican Party holds a majority. They still have to decide whether the aid to the contras will be reduced or whether it will be raised to $100 million, as Mr Reagan repeatedly said last night.

Therefore, we will be on the lookout for that decision and will continue to ask the U.S. people to pressure their government to end this illegal and immoral war against our neighbor. We will also continue to ask the U.S. Government to respect international law and to accept the negotiated solutions that the Contadora group and its Support Group have put forward over the past few years. We believe this is the best way to solve the Central American crisis and to normalize relations between the United States and Nicaragua. This is what the Nicaraguan people and government want.

[Vargas] Right, Mr Deputy Foreign Minister. The issue will again be voted on 15 April. Political observers say that Reagan has a majority in Congress. Thus, the aid for the contras will probably be granted. What will be your government's position regarding the aid that Nicaragua will surely request from other Latin American nations? Will Nicaragua strengthen its ties to those nations?

[Talavera] Well, our people, who have received the solidarity of Latin America and of other continents, want to reiterate their determination to continue to resist this war which has been imposed on us. Our people categorically reiterate that we will not be subdued with blackmail and aggression, that our government does not consider even the most remote possibility of being defeated, and that we have faith in the future and in our victory over any escalation of aggression from the U.S. Government.

[Vargas] Finally, we would like to know the objective of your visit to Lima.

[Talavera] Well, we came to Peru to fulfill some orders of President Ortega. One of our main tasks is to express our gratitude to the Peruvian people and Government, who recently intensified their political and moral solidarity with our country through their efforts to achieve peace and preserve the right of self-determination.

In particular, we want to thank President Alan Garcia for his recent statements in Argentina. We are convinced that President Garcia speaks not only for the great majority of the Peruvian people but also for the vast majority of Latin Americans, who realize that President Garcia has adopted a position of dignity and firmness that is necessary in the face of heavy-handed imperialism. In the case of Nicaragua, imperialism is attacking not only our people but all the Latin American peoples, who are rightly demanding freedom, dignity, and self-determination.

[Vargas] Mr Deputy Foreign Minister, we thank you for answering our questions.

[Talavera, overlapped by Vargas] ... for having allowed me to convey the Nicaraguan people and government's message to the Peruvian people.

GARCIA'S PANAMA VISIT TO REFUTE COLUMNIST

PY220227 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2232 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 21 Mar (EFE) -- President Alan Garcia today announced that on 10 April he will go to Uruguay and afterward to Panama to honor an invitation that has been pending for some time. Garcia failed to mention when he will go to Panama but said that he would go there in response to a commentary published in the press by an influential Peruvian columnist who stated that the Panamanian head of state Eric Delvalle has rescinded the invitation.

According to a columnist of the newspaper, EXPRESO, Delvalle used an unexpected visit to the United States for a medical check as an excuse because Garcia's presence in Panama would be uncomfortable for him. The Peruvian president stated that the goal of all these trips is "to promote the solidarity of all Latin American peoples concerning a common problem such as the foreign debt issue."

BRIEFS

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP MEMBER -- Peruvian Senator Armando Villanueva del Campo has been elected as a member of the Situations Group, a five-member group subordinate to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The Situations Group has the task of observing the human rights situation in various countries and then reporting its findings to the UN Human Rights Commission. [Summary] [Lima Radioprogramas del Peru Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Mar 86 PY]

IGLESIAS CRITICIZES ARMS SUPPLY TO CONTRAS

PY221442 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Commenting on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposal to supply aid to anti-Sandinist guerrilla groups, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias has stated in Brasilia that the supply of arms to irregular forces is jeopardizing negotiations in Central America. Iglesias and his Brazilian counterpart, Abreu Sodre, installed in Brasilia the Brazilian-Uruguayan General Coordinating Commission. He returned late yesterday to Montevideo. Iglesias declined to comment on the U.S. House decision to vote down on 20 March a $100-million aid bill for the Nicaraguan contras. He said: These are U.S. domestic issues.

COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES TO PASS TO PRESIDENCY

PY211659 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0218 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Montevideo, 20 Mar (EFE) -- The Uruguayan Senate unanimously approved an amendment which returns to the government the power to directly appoint the Armed Forces commander and repeals the national security doctrine. The law, which has yet to be approved by the Chamber of Deputies, returns to the president of the Republic the supreme command of the Armed Forces.

In Article No. 1 the law states that "the commanders in chief of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force will be chosen by the executive board from the generals of the respective force." The new law reduces from 8 to 5 years the maximum term in office of the commanders. Their term of office will "depend on the executive branch's decision. Other retirement criteria, however, remain in effect."

During the military regime that ruled in Uruguay from 1973 until 1985, the Armed Forces commanders were directly appointed by a junta of generals, without the government's intervention. During the first year of the transition toward democracy, which began on 1 March 1985, and in keeping with "Act No 19," which was the result of an agreement between the military and the politicians before the elections, the junta of generals proposed candidates from which the government chose. "Act No. 19" expired on 1 March. The new law notes the specific duties of the Armed Forces and repeals the national security doctrine.

Article No. 3 of the law reads: "The basic duty of the Armed Forces is to defend the honor, independence, and the peace of the republic, its territorial integrity, its Constitution, and its laws." It also notes that "the Armed Forces should always act under the supreme command of the President of the Republic, and the respective ministry in keeping with the constitutional measures currently in force. The new law states that if an officer steps down as commander of any of the Armed Forces branches he must "also retire from the military." The Uruguayan Armed Forces has 65,000 men.

BLANCO PARTY LEADER MEETS SANGUINETTI

PY211330 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpt] After holding a lengthy meeting with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti late on the afternoon of 20 March, Blanco Party President Wilson Ferreira Aldunate announced that an agreement to reactivate the economy had been reached. Ferreira said that there is an atmosphere of respect and understanding that will help us overcome our difficulties. He added that it is necessary to regain the people's confidence and that this will be achieved only if the people's economic situation is substantially improved. Ferreira, who practically lost his voice -- he said he shouted to celebrate the victory of Nacional at yesterday's soccer game -- had a broad smile on his face as he was leaving the residence on Suarez Avenue. This is what he told reporters:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Ferriera, does the bright smile with which you said goodbye to the president have any special meaning?

[Ferreira] It means that we no longer live under a dictatorship, that the opposition parties have not declared war on the government, and that we fortunately live in civilized coexistence in an atmosphere marked by mutual respect, understanding, and joint efforts to overcome our difficulties.

[Reporter] Will those difficulties be overcome?

[Ferreira] Well, you know our country has big problems. Please excuse my hoarseness, but it's been so many years since I last cheered my team that [words indistinct] lack of training. Our country has big problems which call for joint action. I do not know whether a joint effort will be enough to solve them, but I do know that there will be no solutions without a common effort.

[Reporter] You are probably aware that the Legislative Palace this afternoon announced that an agreement has been reached. Did you talk about this with the president?

[Ferreira] Yes, during part of our conversation. The Legislative Palace released a document which, to some extent... [Ferreira hesitates] is, so to speak, an account of the negotiations held by the commission in the Legislative Palace. I do not know whether the document is in final form, but it includes a list of the points of agreement and disagreement among the parties.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED -- FRG Ambassador Horst T. Schirmer, GDR Ambassador Alfred Patzak, and Austrian Ambassador Albert Rohan yesterday presented their credentials to Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 7 Mar 86 p 6 PY]

FISCAL DEFICIT STATISTICS -- A January-December 1985 statistical report published by the Economy and Finance Ministry states that the fiscal deficit of the administration totaled 14.6 billion Uruguayan pesos, which corresponds to 16 percent of expenses. The 1985 average inflation rate was 72.22 percent, and the 1985 deficit was 45 percent less than in the previous year. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p 7 PY]

GUATEMALA'S CEREZO ARRIVES ON 3-DAY VISIT

PA172215 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2129 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Caracas, 17 Mar (EFE) -- Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo arrived at the Maiquetia International Airport, 20 km north of Caracas, today where he was greeted by his Venezuelan colleague, Social Democrat Jaime Lusinchi.

Cerezo set foot on Venezuelan soil at 1705, thus beginning an official 3-day visit as a guest of President Lusinchi.

The Guatemalan president received military honors befitting his rank and the salute of the members of President Lusinchi's Cabinet, diplomatic corps representatives accredited in the country, and prominent local economic and political figures.

Opposes U.S. Intervention

PA210105 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] A meeting of Central American presidents will be held on 23-24 May in Esquipulas, Guatemala. This was announced this morning by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo during a press conference in the La Vineta presidential residence. Here is report by Martin Pacheco:

[Pacheco] The Guatemalan president met with journalists in La Vineta where he referred to various aspects of the grave Central American crisis. According to Cerezo, dialogue and understanding must be maintained as the only way to achieve peace in that strife-torn nation. He said that Contadora logically continues to be the most appropriate means to achieve that understanding. In this sense, he stressed that in the joint declaration that he will sign this afternoon with President Jaime Lusinchi, they will emphasize the importance of Contadora and the historic role it is currently playing to prevent a generalized conflict that would bring truly unpredictable consequences for all Latin America and the entire world.

President Vinicio Cerezo said that his visit to Venezuela has been highly positive. There has been understanding with regard to reciprocity in the trade between the two countries. He said that there has been agreement on economic, political, and social viewpoints and that he has been very impressed by the Venezuelan people. He said that it is very worrisome to see that there are announcements of foreign intervention in the Central American area and he reiterated that peace in the region can only be achieved through a Latin American dialogue. When the reporter of "The News" newscast asked him about the U.S. Government position of helping the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, he said that Guatemala rejects such aid from wherever it may come as well as ideological intervention from wherever it may come, but that it is important that Nicaragua be told about the need to talk with the various internal and external forces in the search for a real democratization in that country.

[Begin Cerezo recording] We would be definitely opposed to direct U.S. intervention, well, a general U.S. intervention -- we have to be careful about the words, in case someone was already preparing to ask me that question...[chuckles] in Nicaragua and in the internal affairs of any of the Central American countries. [end recording]

[Pacheco] The Guatemalan president also stressed that any intervention would mean turning back to eras that we have already overcome.

GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS REJECTION OF MARCOS ASYLUM

PA212038 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2006 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Panama City, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Eric Arturo Delvalle's government announced officially today its rejection of the request for asylum by former Philippine Ferdinand Marcos, alleging reasons of "state security." Guillermo Antonio Adames, Presidency spokesman, read an official communique from his office this afternoon on the decision reached last night by the government and the five parties of the ruling political alliance.

The communique states that Panama "adopted this decision which apparently contravenes the traditional disposition of its people and government to proceed within the rules of understanding and humanitarianism."

"But beyond these emotional considerations," the brief note states, "the invariable reason is that Panama's state security and that of its people should always prevail."

The communique does not specify how state security would be altered by the presence of the former Philippine President, nor did Adames explain. "We did not consider it an opportune moment," the Presidency spokesman said, in view of the newsmen's insistence.

The decision comes after an "indepth evaluation" of the request presented on Wednesday to permit the "temporary entrance" of Marcos and his family.

After a "prior consultation" with the government and "the highest representatives of the parties of the National Democratic Union (UNADE), the president of the Republic has decided not to accept Mr Marcos' request." Neither the communique nor the presidential spokesman specified why the request was rejected.

Nils Castro, secretary of international relations of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the main party of the ruling political coalition, told ACAN-EFE this morning that the UNADE had asked that the asylum be rejected because it considers Marcos "an undesirable individual." The former Philippine dictator, who is at a U.S. air base in Hawaii, has said he would like to live in Mexico, Spain, or Panama. The governments of Madrid and Panama have already rejected that possibility, while in the Mexican capital there has been no official reply in this regard.

Text of Communique

PA220109 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Communique issued by Presidency Spokesman Guillermo Antonio Adames, dated 21 March 1986]

[Text] The executive power has conducted an in-depth review of the request made to the Government of Panama to allow former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his entourage to enter the country. After consulting with the council of Cabinet and top representatives of UNADE, President Eric Arturo Delvalle decided to reject Mr Marco's request. Panama adopts this decision, which seems to contravene the Panamanian Government's and people's traditional stance of acting based on understanding and humanitarianism. However, beyond these emotional considerations, the unchangeable reason of maintaining the security of the state and people of Panama must always prevail. Gullermo Antonio Adames, spokesman for the Presidency of Panama.

TV COMMENTARY ON REAGAN 'DEFEAT' ON CONTRA AID

PA220426 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Station commentary: "Reagan's Defeat"]

[Text] In spite of the fact that the president of the United States personally and directly involved himself in a request to the U.S. Congress for $100 million for those fighting Sandinism, his request has just been rejected. The U.S. House of Representatives had to withstand much pressure to remain firm in its decision not to resupply the rebels who want to overthrow the Managua regime.

Ronald Reagan had not only resorted to the political strength he has as the President of the world's most powerful country, he had also risked a public relations campaign aimed at conditioning the U.S. people into exerting pressure on their U.S. representatives through letters and telephone calls. International analysts here believe that Reagan will change his position and take a revised request to the U.S. Senate that includes the recommendations of the House.

The request could then be approved and then sent back to the House for final approval. Regardless of what happens next, yesterday's vote was a setback for the current Republican administration. The U.S. House spoke loud and clear, pointing out that there are better alternatives for resolving the situation in Central America. One of these alternatives is the proposals of the Contadora Group, of which Panama is a proud member. Contadora is to play a decisive role in the next few weeks. You will see. Thank you.

DELVALLE, COSTA RICA'S MONGE, ARIAS REAFFIRM TIES

PA201339 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2118 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Panama City, 19 Mar (DPA) -- The Costa Rican and Panamanian presidents reaffirmed the friendship between their two countries during their meeting in David, Chiriqui Province, at noon today. Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle met with the two Costa Rican presidents, Luis Alberto Monge, whose term ends in 48 days, and Oscar Arias, who will assume office on 8 May for a 4-year term.

DPA has received an extensive report on the topics discussed by Delvalle, Monge, and Arias which centered on the two countries' efforts to keep peace in their respective territories. Delvalle told Monge and Arias that he agrees with Costa Rica's proclamation of neutrality in the region's armed conflicts. With Arias' approval, Monge indicated that Costa Rica will continue to support the Contadora Group. The three presidents agreed, however, that it is necessary for this pacification group to speed up its efforts to attain its objectives and, if necessary, pressure Nicaragua into making some concessions for the sake of peace.

The presidents thoroughly analyzed the status of the Contadora Group negotiations. This part of the meeting was attended by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, and future foreign minister Rodrigo Madrigal. The presidents also discussed trade between the two countries in which Costa Rica has a surplus. The Panamanian president expressed to his Costa Rican counterparts his concern over the trade balance and the need to try to balance it and to prevent it from affecting Panama's commercial balance. It was agreed that two Panamanian-Costa Rican commissions will meet in a few weeks to consider a list of products that Panama could sell to Costa Rica.

The presidents analyzed the integration program situation in the border area and the achievements in joint educational, agricultural and livestock, and industrial trials.

The integration plan for the Costa Rica-Panama border aims at turning this region into a vast commercial and agricultural and livestock area of integration through the installation of some agricultural industries to employ Costa Ricans and Panamanians.

In principle, it was agreed that authorities of the two countries will meet to draft a regulation for the border area that will permit speedier transactions and strict control to prevent contraband to and from both sides of the border.

Both Monge and Arias disagreed with the Panamanian initiative to hold a large meeting of Central American presidents in Panama City to analyze Latin America's major problems. The presidents discussed the two countries' foreign debt problems in general and exchanged views on a possible overall solution and each country's special attention to its particular debt.

Delvalle listened attentively to the two Costa Rican presidents' explanation of their country's refinancing of its $4 billion foreign debt. Panama's foreign debt has reached approximately $4.1 billion.

The Panamanian president accepted the Costa Rica president-elect's invitation to attend the inauguration ceremony on 8 May in San Jose. After the meeting, the presidents opened the traditional fair in David. The Costa Rican presidents will return to their country tomorrow.

NORIEGA VIEWS STRIKE; ARIAS, DELVALLE ON MEETING

PA210121 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, has stated in Chiriqui that the banana strike is about to be solved. The general made the statements at the conclusion of a meeting with the presidents of Costa Rica and Panama, Luis Alberto Monge and Eric Arturo Delvalle, as well as Costa Rican President-elect, Oscar Arias. Our special correspondents, Ciro Ortega and Rolando Aizpu will now give us this special report.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle and the commander in chief of the Defense Forces, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, met last night in David, Chiriqui Province, with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge and President-elect Oscar Arias. Members of the cabinets of the two nations, as well as other high-ranking military officers of Panama and of the Civil Guard of Costa Rica attended the somewhat informal meeting held at the home of Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia. During that meeting, Gen Noriega made some statements to the press concerning the latest developments that have taken place in the country, and that have affected the economic situation.

[Noriega] We think that the workers are a basic force who should be consulted on their opinions and stands in order to reach an implementation that will favor the working class. We, the members of the Defense Forces, reiterate that is our stand. We know that the president of the Republic feels the same way and that we are willing to work so that the working class will not be affected, will not be fenced in, and we wish to state that their leaders have followed a very dignified stand, for which we wish to publicly express our appreciation and recognition.

[Ortega] In addition to this general labor conflict there is a strike at the banana plantations that is considered critical in this area. How do you feel about that?

[Noriega] We think that the banana workers' union has always been a very mature union; it is one of the most conscientious unions; and its struggles have always been just struggles. Likewise, the representatives of the United Brand Company have always admired this struggle, they have been aware of these struggles, and I think we can foretell that these two groups have the positive attitude of rapprochement and the company will accept the banana workers' claims. This will favor production, because they know Panama is a positive source of banana production, where the Panamanian workers have always had a large investment. I think their differences are only differences of concepts, where the two parties can achieve in less than 72 hours a final settlement.

[Ortega] Meanwhile, Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias said his visit to David City was a positive one, pointing out that the bilateral relations between the two countries have been strengthened. He also emphasized the Central American situation, saying:

[Arias] The democratic and pacifist tradition of Costa Rica compels us to strive together with Panama, as a member of the Contadora Group, so that the Central American conflicts will be solved through dialogue and negotiations. We believe this is a civilized world, and Central America is no exception. Therefore, we have absolute faith and confidence that it is much better to make all sorts of efforts so that the conflicts prevailing in the Central American region will be solved and settled through negotiations and dialogue.

[Ortega] Meanwhile, Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle pointed out that the meeting with the high-ranking Costa Rican officials has been positive for the benefit of both nations. When consulted about the reduction in the prices of petroleum by-products, the Panamanian president said:

[Delvalle] We do not know what will be the outcome of the OPEC meeting held today in Geneva. We are cautiously investigating all details. It is important for the country to learn that all of the petroleum that is in the country now is conditioned to previous prices. Recently, we even had to complain to Mexico, one of our main suppliers, about a shipment they were invoicing for approximately $20 instead of the approximately $19 which was the current price at that time. Two days ago, they confirmed that the price was $19. However, the people and the entire country are now talking about $15, 14, 12, 10, 9 but these are not the real prices. The real prices of our current inventory are probably fluctuating over $22 and, in due time, we will reduce the price which the Panamanian people deserve.

[Ortega] Our news team asked President Delvalle about the doctor's strike which is now over 3 weeks old.

[Delvalle] I wish to appeal to the feeling of all Panamanian doctors to reconsider their stand. In the last 2 weeks, they have been struggling and requesting just demands. They are right in certain cases, and we are willing to talk about those just demands. In other cases, we think they have been influenced by political stands that really have nothing to do with the conflict between the doctors and public health. The government has always said it is willing to negotiate these differences, we are willing to do this, and we have said this on several occasions. We hope that very soon we will be able to sit down and discuss these differences.

[Ortega] Mr President, since you are talking about reconsiderations by part of the doctors, would there be any possibility that you would also reconsider the measure that says the doctors have to pick up their paychecks in public places?

[Delvalle] Of course, I only said in my speech that if they had the courage to pick up their paychecks without having worked, they should do this before God and the people, whom they had not treated. I reiterate that stand. I am not threatening nor am I humiliating the doctors. On the contrary, I respect them very much, I believe they deserve all of our considerations and respect. However, the people should not pay for services that are not being rendered. This is a poor country, this is a country experiencing serious difficulties with the purpose of achieving financing that will help us overcome this serious economic crisis. I believe that the country in general should express appreciation for our government for having adopted that stand. In other words, he who works should be paid, and he who does not work should not be paid. [end recording]

CONATO COORDINATOR SAYS STRIKE 'POSITIVE'

PA221525 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 2-a

[Text] Jose Manuel Meneses, coordinator of the National Council of Organized Workers (Conato), has told LA PRENSA that although the withdrawal of three Legislative Assembly bills was not achieved, a partial analysis of the results of the indefinite general strike that paralyzed the country for 10 days revealed that in general terms the strike was positive, the labor movement has been strengthened, and an undeniable strength has been demonstrated. Nevertheless, Meneses pointed out that a general analysis of the event is difficult now due to the short period of time that has elapsed since the strike ended. Meneses explained that the objective of the strike was to achieve the withdrawal of the Legislative Assembly's three bills and he rejected statements by the Coordinating Board for National Civilianization (Cocina) that the "Conato leaders sold themselves," and that "we have lost the opportunity to topple the Defense Forces."

Asked what new tactical actions Conato will adopt, Meneses said that "in reality we are regrouping our forces. We believe that first we must struggle at the general level of the labor movement against the three laws, and second, we believe that if this does not solve the unemployment problem, we should not have to face situations that force the workers to adopt measures at each institution on their own."

Asked how Conato will implement the withdrawal of its support to the central government, the labor leader said "we will withdraw our union representatives from the Social Security Fund, the National Institute for Professional Training, the Labor Ministry Conciliation and Decision Junta, Price Control Office, and Inaford [not further identified], in view of the fact that the workers are still being deceived." Regarding the manner in which withdrawal from the government institutions will take place, Meneses said "we believe this action will express the labor movement's displeasure. We lose nothing because of it, but we believe that if Conato's statements are taken into account we will be given a greater participation than we have at the present time."

Meanwhile, Meneses stressed that the groups that form part of the Central of Panamanian Transport Workers will be expelled from the Conato, with only a few exceptions, because they ignored the labor movement strike. Asked what made him call off the general indefinite strike Meneses said that "honestly, the workers were beginning to show the signs of wear and tear. It was a first experience; we had carried out indefinite 48-hour strikes before but this was a new attempt. We believe it was very successful, but we could not play with the situation. The prestige the labor movement has earned could be lost if we do not employ tactics at this time."

Finally, Menseses said that "the battle does not end here; we believe this is a very important phase for the labor movement, but we know that the situation will become much more difficult because we have insisted that the problems stated by the government will not be solved."

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS SIGN JOINT DECLARATION

PA200427 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 17 Mar 86 p 3

[Joint declaration issued by President Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala, President Jose Azcona of Honduras, and President-elect Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, on 13 March 1986]

[Text] On the occasion of the visit Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez, made to the presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, we agreed during our cordial meetings to support Salvadoran President Napoleon Duarte's proposal to invite Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega and President Duarte to begin dialogues with the opposition in their respective countries to seek a national reconciliation.

We the signatories of this declaration, in view of our high office and with the knowledge of the storm hovering over Central America, know that peace in the region must be based on dialogue and understanding with the people of each of these countries and on their solidarity for the exercise of democracy. Those of us who do not want a war must definitely support all those measures, like the one that President Duarte has submitted, which will help to stop violence and reconcile the feuding parties.

Our support of his interesting proposal is not an isolated act. We have done this convinced of the need to make a great and serious effort among all the democracies of the world, to try to convince the Nicaraguan authorities to accept the importance of holding a dialogue, to establish the proper conditions for peace in Central America and to consolidate democracy.

COSTA RICA

AGREEMENT WITH NICARAGUA ON BORDER COMMISSION

PA231948 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] In the framework of the Contadora Group, last night Costa Rica and Nicaragua approved the bases for a border control and supervision agreement. The following document was released at 2230 after a protracted meeting of the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan delegations and the four Contadora deputy foreign ministers:

I. Nature:

1. A permanent civilian mission will be advised by defense and security specialists.

II. Functions:

1. The mission will observe, investigate, inspect in situ, and verify incidents or facts that might cause border tension.

2. The mission will prepare reports for and make recommendations to the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments and will deliver such reports to the governments of the commission's member-countries.

III. Pledge by the Parties:

1. The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments pledge to ensure the enforcement of the recommendations or the necessary measures to correct the situation that has brought about the investigation.

IV. Structure and Formation:

1. An executive commission will be formed by civilian representatives of the participating countries (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Contadora Group, and Support Group). This commission will be responsible for directing the work and the Contadora and the Support Groups will rotate coordiantion responsibilities.

2. An inspection and observation subcommission will be formed by defense and security advisers living on either side of the border and belonging to the Contadora Group and the Support Group.

V. The Commission's Safety:

1. The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments will supply all means within their reach to guarantee commission members' integrity and safety.

VI. Supplies and Financing:

1. Contributions from the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments.

The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments pledge to cover all expenses related to lodging, food, health, offices, secretarial assistance, and office equipment in their respective territories. The fuel supply will be agreed upon later.

In addition, the parties will let commission members use the parties' communications systems -- whenever possible -- within the capabilities of each of the host countries.

2. To implement the above, the two parties agree to negotiate the necessary funds.

3. Contributions from the governments of the Contadora and Support Group countries and other countries.

The Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua stated that for the proper functioning of the commission, aircraft, boats, light land vehicles, and communication equipment will be needed. Equally important are the crews, mechanics, and operators, as well as the spare parts for the above mentioned vehicles and communication equipment. In this regard, the two governments request that the Contadora Group, with the cooperation of the Support Group, negotiate with the international community to get their support for the necessary financial aid and material support.

VII. Immunity and Privileges:

To guarantee the proper development of the work of the commission and its personnel, the issue regarding immunity, privileges, and facilities will be established in an agreement that will be made between the Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua with the countries participating in the Commission.

While this agreement is being negotiated, the two parties agree to extend all privileges and immunities, as established in the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, to all commission personnel as long as they remain with the diplomatic missions in Nicaragua or Costa Rica.

VIII. The issue of insurance and civil responsibility will be dealt with in another agreement to be drafted at a later date.

IX. Within the framework of these negotiations, the Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua agreed to ask the members of the Contadora and Support Groups, with the participation of representatives of the two countries, to carry out a general inspection of the common border, and that this general inspection be done as soon as possible. Regarding the general inspection, the two governments have expressed their willingness to provide the commission with what it needs.

X. The agreement that will be signed will have 1 year validity with automatic extensions for the same length of time. After the 1st year, either of the two parties involved can request the termination of the agreement 6 months prior to the dates of extension. This decision must be presented in a note to the other party involved with copies to the participating countries.

Given in San Jose, Costa Rica, on the 12th day of March 1986.

For Costa Rica: Gerardo Trejos
For Nicaragua: Victor Hugo Tinoco

EL SALVADOR

VICE PRESIDENT ON ARMS TRAFFICKING ISSUE

PA211504 San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount has said that the seizure of arms in Honduras for the Salvadoran guerrillas proves once more that the permanent arms trafficking from Nicaragua into El Salvador continues. The Honduran press has reported extensively about the discovery of arms and supplies destined for the Salvadoran terrorists that the Honduran Armed Forces recently captured in San Isidro de Camasca, Intibuca, Colomoncagua jurisdiction. According to Honduran Armed Forces spokesmen, employees and officials of the UNCHR are involved in this action. Reporters have found that this is not the first time that such charges have been filed because, according to the Honduran press, similar charges against UNCHR employees have been presented in the past.

For the moment, there has not been a UNCHR statement or response to the serious accusations regarding the organization officials' complicity with Salvadoran terrorists in arms trafficking.

Castillo Claramount explained the government's position:

[Begin recording] We don't know the exact number of weapons. However, we do know that these weapons were manufactured by countries behind the Iron Curtain. We will have complete information today or tomorrow. We might even have videotapes. These could be shown to the people once they have been processed by Salvadoran Armed Forces high command. This finding further verifies the permanent trafficking of arms to El Salvador. If these people are really involved, their behavior is questionable. I cannot confirm their participation. We only have preliminary reports. As soon as we have clarified this information, we will protest these actions. We must bear in mind that this is part of the actions fostered and approved by the Managua government to destabilize the Salvadoran Government. [end recording]

VIERA ON CAPTURED REBELS, HOLY WEEK TRUCE

PA221922 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] Deputy Communications Minister Roberto Edmundo Viera has told EL MUNDO that the nine guerrillas recently captured by the Armed Forces in the Chalatenango area are recovering and that it is false that they are to be exchanged for Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos, who was kidnapped by the FMLN from his farm in late 1985.

The official said that the wounded guerrillas will leave the country. He said that the Armed Forces, the church, and other humanitarian organizations could begin talks to decide whether the guerrillas will leave the country and under what conditions. He explained that the FMLN fighters were captured by the Army during operations that are part of a military offensive to seize areas that for some time were zones where the guerrillas operated, but which have not been abandoned. He said that the Army is treating the wounded guerrillas in a humane manner.

Regarding the departure of the guerrillas, he said that to date no country has offered to receive them. He said he is unaware of specific offers from any country. Meanwhile, the FMLN guerrillas have said that the capture of the combatants violates the Geneva conventions.

Regarding the topic of a Holy Week truce, which Msgr Rivera y Damas has described as something desired by the Salvadorans, Viera said that there has been no official proposal in this regard, and that if there were, the government would study it and hold talks with the church. Nevertheless, when he was asked about the entrance of the FMLN-FDR representatives to present a proposal to the San Salvador archbishop and if the government would grant them safe-conduct, he said that this would fall within the process of the phases of dialogue. For the time being, I reiterate that if they enter the country they will be prosecuted, but if they enter within the context of the dialogue, as on previous occasions, different mechanisms will have to be used to permit their entrance and departure at a specific time, he said. For the time being nothing is set and no decision has been made, he added.

Regarding the march held by the National Peasant-Worker Unity on Saturday, which according to some sectors was organized by the government to support it and its so-called economic package, the deputy minister said that this march, like other smaller marches held recently, confirms to the world and to El Salvador that there is democracy here. Viera asked what would have happened at such demonstrations in 1970, when participants in such marches were beaten and arrested or disappeared.

BUSINESS GROUPS FORM NEW PRODUCTIVE UNION

PA212306 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 86 p 45

[Charter of the Salvadoran Productive Union, [Union Productiva Salvadorena], UPS, published as a paid advertisement; issued in San Salvador on 13 Mar 1986]

[Text] By unanimous agreement of the representatives of the organizations that participated in the Forum on Unity of Businesses for the Defense of Economic Freedom and National Reactivation in El Salvador, held in San Salvador on 13 March 1986, the organization to be named Salvadoran Productive Union, is hereby established. This new organization will have as its goals:

1. To defend the Constitution of the Republic and to ensure that the rules that establish our country as a legal state are strictly adhered to.

2. To strengthen representative democracy as established in our Constitution as the only system that allows the people to freely express their political will, thus rejecting all kinds of totalitarian government.

3. To defend the principles of free enterprise, for it constitutes the adequate means of achieving economic efficiency for the benefit of all social classes.

4. To resolutely struggle against all government efforts to impose state control over, or to collectivize private enterprise to prevent the restriction or elimination of free enterprise, which would lead to the political, economic, and social enslavement of the people.

5. To demand the full enforcement of the constitutional principle that guarantees freedom of thought, and to condemn any attempt by the public to undermine this elementary right.

6. To strengthen the unity of the productive system within the framework of harmonious relations between workers and employers.

7. To seek, by constitutional mechanisms, the resolution of the conflict that threatens to destroy the country's institutions.

8. To represent the productive sector in all matters regarding the overall improvement of our fatherland.

San Salvador, 13 March 1986

Organizing Committee. Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Association of Salvadoran Businessmen and Industrialists; Salvadoran Association of Industrialists; and Council of Agricultural Associations.

VENCEREMOS COMMENTS ON CONTRA AID DEFEAT

PA212026 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1922 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Station commentary: "Another Defeat for the Rambo Reagan Doctrine"]

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives voted against the $100 million in aid for the Somozist counterrevolutionaries. In an immoral debate on the internal affairs of a Latin American country like Nicaragua, 222 legislators rejected the request by Reagan who, despite a desperate speech and intense pressures, was only able to obtain 210 votes.

In a mournful tone, Ronald Reagan said yesterday that it had been a dark day for his Central America policy. In the House of Representatives debate, democratic legislators said that Reagan's plan went against the will of the U.S. people and the feelings of the Latin American countries which, through the Contadora Group and the statements of the majority of their leaders and political parties, have condemned the $100 million in aid to the Somozists.

EEC spokesmen today expressed their satisfaction over Ronald Reagan's defeat because they said that the $100 million would sabotage the Contadora peace efforts.

At the same time as the defeat of Reagan's policy of aggression against Central America was made known, Spain announced that it will give the Sandinist government $26 million for social programs to benefit the Nicaraguan people. Meanwhile, counterrevolutionary Eden Pastora expressed his displeasure over the vote against the $100 million because his dismembered forces in Miami and Costa Rica had been waiting for their share of dollars.

In the FRG, the Social Democratic Party said that Reagan should bear this defeat in mind and abandon the military option to resolve the Central American crisis. It also said the fact that the U.S. Government is trying to topple another sovereign government with which it has diplomatic relations is immoral and contrary to international law.

Meanwhile, in Nicaragua, Reagan's defeat was cautiously celebrated amid a great combative mobilization of the popular organizations that are alert to provide defense and at the same time enthusiastically continue production tasks while in Zelaya Department, the EPS dealt another blow to the Somozist counterrevolution by dismantling a base with a toll of many casualties in that area of Nicaragua.

Most of the Latin American governments, led by Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and others, are now planning to strengthen the Contadora Group at a tense moment in the Central American region.

The beaten Somozist counterrevolutionary forces will undoubtedly undergo a process of disintegration since only the promise of more dollars kept them in their camps in Honduras.

Nicaragua is coming out of this situation stronger and with greater international recognition and support. Meanwhile, in Honduras, there are increasing feelings against the presence of U.S. troops and Somozist forces in its territory.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO SAYS NICARAGUA SHOULD BEGIN CONTRA DIALOGUE

PA222030 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1634 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] San Juan, Puerto Rico, 22 Mar (DPA) -- President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo said today that the Nicaraguan Government should reciprocate the position of the U.S. Congress, which rejected funds to aid the Contras, by opening a dialogue with the opposition. The Guatemalan president also asked the Nicaraguan Government to "react in view of the responsibility it has as Central Americans" to prevent a war that could affect the entire region.

"In some way, the U.S. Congress," Cerezo added, "has transferred the problem to the Nicaraguan Government. I think it must reciprocate that position of the U.S. Congress by opening a dialogue with the opposition and establishing a political space to take the problem to a political negotiation and not to confrontation."

"If steps are not taken in this regard," Cerezo added, "President Reagan would justifiably have sufficient reasons to insist on the aid process."

"I believe, as I have previously stated, that the problem can be resolved if both internal parties -- the Nicaraguan Government and the opposition -- and both international parties -- Nicaragua and the United States -- simultaneously carry out actions to create an opportunity for political negotiation."

Cerezo said he hopes the Sandinist leaders will "react in view of their Central American responsibility because," he explained, "maintaining hard-line, intransigent positions can lead to the generalization of the conflict which would affect all of us."

"Just as we respect the independent decisions of Nicaragua and its people, we ask that our interest in safeguarding our peoples from violence or a war be taken into consideration," the Central American president said.

Cerezo, who is attending a meeting in Puerto Rico on the Puerto Rican proposal for the establishment of complementary factories, held a press conference this morning.

Regarding his stay in Puerto Rico, he said that in his first meeting with Puerto Rico Governor Rafael Hernandez Colon they voiced the "desire" to begin trade and cultural relations between Puerto Rico and Guatemala, and he added that he will meet again with the governor to conclude agreements in that regard.

He also said that during the meeting, which was also attended by delegations of many Caribbean countries, contacts were begun for the possible establishment of diplomatic relations with Caribbean countries.

Cerezo expressed support for measures that will lead to a greater economic integration of Central America and voiced interest in expanding those relations to the Caribbean.

HONDURAS

AZCONA DISCUSSES BORDER TENSION WITH ORTEGA

PA220127 Paris AFP in Spanish 0023 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Mar (AFP) -- President Jose Azcona revealed today that he had established contact with his Nicaraguan counterpart Daniel Ortega to evaluate the tense situation that has emerged on the border between their two countries.

Azcona noted that during his dialogue, supposedly by telephone, with Ortega, he told the Nicaragua leader of his concern over the situation that the Nicaraguan conflict has created in the Honduran towns near the border.

The Honduran leader gave no more details about his conversation with the Sandinist leader but said that he trusts that Nicaragua will be able to resolve its domestic conflict. Azcona confirmed that Honduran troops have been sent to the border area "to protect the civilian population" but noted that the number of soldiers mobilized "is much lower" than that reported by the media.

The chief of state said that Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regaldo consulted him this past Wednesday about the suitability of sending troops to the border area to protect the population, which fears that there will be clashes between the Nicaraguan contras and the Sandinists.

"I authorized the mobilization and asked that this be done prudently, and it was done so," Azcona said. At one point, the Honduran president tacitly admitted that there could be Nicaraguan contras in Honduras territory when he said "they have fallen back."

Combat Units on 'Red Alert'

PA221840 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1818 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- According to spokesmen for the President, several Honduran Army combat units have been placed on red alert in view of the deployment of strong Sandinist contingents at the Nicaraguan border.

The Honduran Army High Command has also ordered the deployment of some battalions to specific areas near the border. This move was taken to be prepared to confront any war action in the area. Officially, the number of deployed troops or units on alert has not been disclosed. According to reports from sources closely linked to Honduran Army intelligence, it is known that the Sandinists have deployed between 5,000 and 8,000 men on the border. They are being supported by artillery. The same sources said that the Sandinists will probably try to carry out some actions using the pretext that they are persecuting the counterrevolutionaries who mobilize along the common border.

The families of Air Force officers have confirmed that their relatives were quartered this weekend. The residents along the border with Nicaragua have complained that hundreds of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries are crossing into Honduras and are setting up their camps near several villages in El Paraiso Department. The complaints also mention some abuses by the counterrevolutionaries against the civilians and the absence of Honduran soldiers to provide protection.

Although the Honduran official sector has not publicly reacted to the nonapproval of the $100 million aid that President Ronald Reagan had requested for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, it has expressed its concern privately. A senior official of the presidential house confided to ACAN-EFE that "if the contras do not receive aid they will take refuge in Honduras, and they will unleash some disturbances that will force our troops to react with force against them. This could lead to an unnecessary bloodbath."

"In addition, we do not want to occurrence of something similar to what is happening in Lebanon where various foreign forces are fighting and the only ones being harmed are the Lebanese," the official, who asked to remain anonymous, added. The same source said that "maybe it would be better if the United States gave the aid to the contras through Honduras than not give it at all."

FOREIGN SECRETARY ON USE OF TERRITORY, CONTRA AID

PA211603 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Interview with Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras by Regina Osorio at the Foreign Secretariat on 18 March -- recorded]

[Text] [Osorio] U.S. officials such as the secretary of defense and the secretary of state have said that Honduras will support U.S. policy in Central America by lending its territory for Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups to operate.

However, President Azcona and you, as the foreign secretary, have stated the opposite. However, it is still being reported in the U.S. media that the United States counts on Honduran assistance.

[Lopez Contreras] I think that the president has been very clear. He said that Honduras views the special relationship it has with the United States in security matters as a pillar of its own security. But that is only one aspect. We are interested, and they are also interested, of course, in having a special relationship with Honduras to promote their own interests. To the extent that they are interests in common with Honduras we are willing to cooperate.

However, what Honduras cannot do is violate international law, and international law clearly states that no state can lend its territory to train [troops] or to launch attacks on established governments. Honduras respects that principle of international law, and it also expects neighboring countries to observe reciprocity in this regard.

[Osorio] What does Reagan mean when he says that there are 25,000 armed men, counterrevolutionaries, and that he considers himself a contra? Does this mean that the U.S. President would be willing to unleash a conflict in the Central American area?

[Lopez Contreras] I don't know, because U.S. foreign policy, especially in the long-term, is very unpredictable. Therefore, I think that one must very carefully evaluate statements by U.S. Government spokesmen and not give them independent meanings or treat them individually. They must be viewed within a context which, sometimes, if we get to know it, assumes a certain importance. I tell you this because experience shows that it is very difficult to say that the U.S. Government commits itself with a single statement. It is better to wait and see. It is better to see which way the voting on the contra aid will go at the U.S. Congress on Thursday.

[Osorio] What will be the definite position of the Honduran Government? Will it accept or reject the presence of the counterrevolutionaries in Honduran territory, taking into account that if the $100-million in aid is rejected these people, these armed groups, may enter Honduras and cause social problems?

[Lopez Contreras] Honduras' official position has been stated several times. Our territory will not be used to harass neighboring republics and governments because the only sovereign in Honduras is the republic; consequently, armed men in this country should only be those of the Honduran Armed Forces, who represent our sovereignty.

Further Comments

PA211428 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 31

[Text] Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras met yesterday with high-ranking Army officers to discuss every aspect of the country's defense, especially the security aspect and the Central American crisis.

The head of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat met with Colonel Wilfredo Sanchez, commander of Public Security Forces (FUSEP); Colonel Leonel Riera Lunatti, commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion; Colonel Leoneo Gutierrez Minera, commander of the 2d Infantry Battalion; and Edgardo Mejia of the Honduran Air Force.

The foreign secretary was explicit in stating that the weekend military clash with Nicaragua and the charge that the office of the UNHCR is collaborating with the Salvadoran insurgency in weapons trafficking were not discussed during the meeting.

He was also very emphatic in stating that he would not comment on these issues because he did not have precise information and that the Armed Forces have been asked to present a report.

Nevertheless, the foreign secretary said, if the Army's charges regarding the involvement of UNHCR officials in weapons trafficking are proven to be true then these actions, which he described as highly irregular, will have to be corrected. Lopez Contreras also said that the fact that Honduras is being involved in the issue of aid to the "contras" who are fighting to overthrow the Sandinists is due to party differences in the United States. For this reason, the foreign secretary said, "we should not be surprised by the fact that statements are being made" about Honduras being involved in this issue. The foreign secretary was referring to the statements made by his U.S. counterpart to the effect that the Reagan administration made arrangements with Azcona Hoyo to allow Honduran territory to be used to deliver the aid to the Nicaraguan rebels.

The head of the Honduran diplomacy defended Honduras' traditional position that no support is being given to the "contras," and that the country is not involved in the struggle against the Sandinists.

Meanwhile, the foreign secretary said that since he assumed the office of foreign secretary, tension with Nicaragua has decreased; lowering his voice he said that the recent confrontation will not change his policy because these confrontations have been occurring for some time now.

Lopez Contreras said that Honduras wishes to project a different foreign image and that they [the government] wish to show the country as a nation with domestic peace that the neighbors do not enjoy. Lopez Contreras added that this measures is aimed at attracting investors to Honduras so that their investments will create more jobs and, in turn, reduce the economic and social problems that the country is experiencing.

The foreign secretary said that the diplomacy being developed by the country is aimed at reducing the regional crisis and confrontation, and in this way achieving the results sought by Jose Azcona Hoyo's current administration.

U.S. PLANES REPORTEDLY DAMAGE AIRPORT RUNWAYS

PA211426 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 86

[By Regina Osorio]

[Text] Military leaders from the Francisco Morazan jurisdiction and Foreign Secretariat officials held an important meeting this morning to review certain international treaties with the United States. They specifically discussed certain physical problems affecting our airports because of the military maneuvers.

Air Force Commander Ricardo Mejia, Public Secretary Force [FUSEP] Commander Colonel Wilfredo Sanchez, and Colonels Leonel Gutierrez Minera and Leonel Riera Lunatti met today for several hours with the foreign secretary and Foreign Secretariat advisers to review protocols pending negotiation with the U.S. Government.

According to FUSEP Commander Col Sanchez, they analyzed the regulations of certain treaties because the country's runways and airports have deteriorated or have been damaged by U.S. planes. An evaluation of the damage is being carried out and, subsequently, the U.S. Government reportedly is to contribute to their repair. We consulted Col Riera Lunatti, commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion:

[Begin recording] [Riera Lunatti] We are discussing the protocol that involves the maintenance of military installations.

[Osorio] We had been told that due to the constant landing of certain U.S. planes, heavy cargo planes, our runways have deteriorated and perhaps they will contribute to their repair in years to come?

[Riera Lunatti] Yes, the protocols will contemplate that. [end recording]

COMMERCIAL TRUCKS BACKED UP AT NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA222255 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2221 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- It was reported here today that Central American trade was hampered this week by Nicaragua's refusal to permit trucks full of merchandise to pass through from Honduras. One hundred trucks from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and northern Honduras are parked at the El Espino customs post awaiting Nicaragua's authorization to move on.

According to reports from this border area in southern Honduras, the Managua government has taken this measure as a result of the latest clashes between Sandinist People's Army soldiers and counterrevolutionaries who fight against the Nicaraguan Government

Clashes between Honduran and Sandinist troops were reported last week, but no dead or wounded were mentioned, only material damage at the La Fraternidad customs post in the southern department of Choluteca. Residents of El Espino have been evacuated by Honduran authorities, and journalists have been forbidden to enter the area in view of a possible clash between Hondurans and Nicaraguans.

In addition, truck drivers have been instructed to move back 8 km from the Nicaraguan border. Cargo drivers have expressed their concern because many of the products are about to rot due to the excess time in the trailers.

According to official reports, Honduran Army members have been sent to a location near the border with Nicaragua in anticipation of incidents with Sandinst troops. Some local residents have said that several Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have entered Honduras fleeing from the Sandinists. It has also been reported that Nicaragua has sent in more military reinforcements to the border with Honduras.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA RESPONDS TO REAGAN REACTION ON AID VOTE

PA211843 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] In his first reaction after the defeat suffered in Congress, President Reagan described the voting as a dark day for liberty. In a virtual declaration of war, Reagan said that he will try time and again until the battle is won.

He announced that he will begin pressuring the Senate tomorrow, and then he will renew his attack on the use of Representatives. He also issued a message to the mercenary forces.

President Daniel Ortega, with a copy of President Reagan's statement in his hands, replied to this new declaration of war in an interview to a Sandinist newscast.

[Begin recording] I think that these remarks by President Reagan immediately after the rejection of the $100 million show that the battle against the U.S. aggressive policy continues and will continue, because the U.S. President is once again talking in a completely irresponsible and aggressive manner that violates international relations.

In the announcement, he said that today is a dark day for him. He said that he will insist on the support for the mercenary forces. He issued a call to the contras and to the U.S. public to back him in his terrorist policy against Nicaragua.

This shows that the U.S. President will continue insisting on his policy to destroy or to try to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. He will do everything and will talk in the most aggressive manner [words indistinct] in order to attain his objective. Therefore, we will continue in the struggle against the terrorist policy of the United States promoted and defended by the U.S. President. The policy of peace defended by Nicaragua, which is supported by the people of the United States, and peoples of Latin America, and the Latin American governments who have been raising their voices against these U.S. terrorist policy in the past few days. [sentence as heard]

Logically, we will continue fighting for peace on the military terrain facing the mercenary forces, the military advisers -- if the U.S. President sends them -- and his troops, if he also sends them. However, we are also willing to make peace [words indistinct] the best path with the U.S. President who should reflect, act wisely, and help give peace a victory in Central America. [end recording]

Warns of Reagan Plans

PA231503 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1327 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra warned our people yesterday about the Reagan administration's warmongering plans, stating that it is preparing to escalate the war in Nicaragua. In addition to requesting $100 million to continue financing the counterrevolutionary bands, President Reagan has said that if the aid is approved, he will send U.S. (?advisers) to train the mercenary forces on the spot, Ortega said.

The Nicaraguan president, who was accompanied by his Cabinet members, delivered a speech to more than 1,000 zone, neighborhood, and regional leaders of the Sandinist Defense Committee, CDS. Ortega analyzed the decision on whether to invade Nicaragua which is being considered by the U.S. Congress. Within this context, Commander Ortega examined two points: the violation of international laws, and Reagan's determination to foster a military escalation. He added that each defeat suffered from our people leads to Reagan's final kick, the mercenary invasion.

[Begin recording] We must stress two elements concerning this issue. One is: Why is the U.S. Congress debating this matter of the $100 million? Why is the U.S. Congress doing this?

Who has ordered it, who has authorized the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Government to do this? Who has given them that authority? I would like to know who authorized them. Have they been authorized by the United Nations? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Has the United Nations given the U.S. Government that representation or authority? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Has the International Court of Justice given them that authority, representation, or order? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Have the Latin American governments given them that order? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Have the U.S. people given them that authority? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Not even the U.S. people have given them that authority or order. Then, we reject the action itself of holding debates on this issue.

The correct attitude on the part of the U.S. Congress -- if they respected international laws, if they had any respect for moral and order -- would be to respond to President Reagan's request for $27 or $100 million, or any amount with the reply: We have nothing to discuss because it is illegal and immoral. However, they engage in discussions and debates, violating international laws. On the one hand, the action is immoral and illegal. This is the first element we wanted to mention. It is an immoral and illegal action.

Now, the next element is that it represents military escalation. It is a military escalation. Why? The fact that they are considering giving or approving more funds for the contras shows that the money they were previously receiving was not enough and that they are being defeated. It also means that their ability to face our organized people and our Army is limited and reduced, because we are defeating them. Therefore, President Reagan says: Let us give them more money and also send military advisers to back and support them on the spot, and to train them on the spot. [end recording]

ORTEGA WANTS TALKS WITH REAGAN AS CONTRA CHIEF

PA231315 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1229 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 23 Mar (REUTER) -- President Daniel Ortega has called for holding peace talks with President Ronald Reagan, who he said is preparing for a Vietnam-style war in Central America.

"We would talk with him at any time... here in Managua or Washington," Ortega said during a meeting with the heads of the Sandinist Defense Committee held here. The president said that Reagan wants to intensify the war against his country through increasing support for the guerrillas, commonly referred to as the "contras," who seek to oust the leftist authorities in Managua.

"We seek a peaceful solution," Orgeta said. "We want a dialogue with the chief of the contras," he added. Ortega said that Reagan's proposal to send U.S. military advisers to train the contras as part of his proposal to grant $100 million in aid for the insurgents placed the United States "on the threshold of a Vietnamization of the conflict."

However, Ortega warned that in spite of the actions of the U.S. military advisers the contras were defeated, and therefore Washington will make another appeal to send troops, helicopters, and U.S. planes, "setting on fire" all of Central America.

On Thursday, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected Reagan's request for funds for the contras, but the head of the White House forecast that his proposal, which includes $70 million in military aid, will be approved next month following a new debate among the representatives (deputies).

EDITORIAL VIEWS U.S. HOUSE CONTRA VOTE

PA220034 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Mar 86 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "An Alert Against a Declaration of War"]

[Text] The Nicaraguan people should not become confused by events in the U.S. House of Representatives. Nothing good can come out of there for the future of the Sandinist people's revolution, because nobody is talking about peace or about ensuring the people's right to self-determination. Quite the contrary: We must be prepared for any outcome regardless of what policy the U.S. Congress may decide to carry out against Nicaragua. There is no room for confusion, for the following reasons:

1. The debate in the U.S. House of Representatives not only is unlawful and immoral, but all patriotic Nicaraguans must also reject it. Regardless of the outcome, the democratic view of all countries will not cease to be amazed by the immorality that it [the debate] represents; and they will not stop rejecting it as a violation of international norms.

This is a problem of principles ratified throughout hundreds of years of patriotic combat against the invader. Estrada, Zeledon, Sandino, and the FSLN have rescued the dignity which men like Diaz, Somoza, Calero, and others have sold for a few million or for $100 million.

2. Any outcome of the debates and vote represents one more act of war against the people. The debate per se is one more element deepening the aggression that we have resisted, combatted, and are defeating every day.

Ronald Reagan's statements and commitments; the degree of lies and threats that he and his most important hawks have uttered; the actions that have been carried out -- such as Philip Habib's -- to ensure the success of the [request for the] $100 million; the personal commitment to this matter; all these things cannot be viewed as anything but deepening and escalating the aggression. Hand in hand with the aggression, the specter of an invasion by U.S. troops has been stirred, raised and clearly described.

3. All these desperate efforts by the Reagan administration hide a true, unquestionable, and dramatic fact, even to its own interests: the defeat of the counterrevolution at the hands of the Nicaraguan people.

Nothing will keep our soldiers and fighters in every line from dealing decisive blows in 1986 and 1987. Despair is turning into greater defeat. Over 100 [counterrevolutionary] elements have perished in recent weeks while trying to stage a propaganda blow, like the one in La Trinidad -- permitting them to shout "we are still alive" to back up President Reagan.

4. In the face of this danger -- which is even further uniting the Nicaraguan people and making us become more prepared -- there is an element we must view as positive for our struggle: The imperialists played very important cards by taking off the masks hiding the faces of many traitors.

Reagan made Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega show their true faces. Their statements have been the imperialists' "proof" and "arguments" for the $100 million request to get rid of the people's Sandinist revolution.

We now know them well. Isolated, without moral authority, deprived of their habits, and wearing the uniform of the enemies of the people, they have shown themselves as what they truly are.

5. All this leads us to the conclusion that we must declare ourselves on the alert; paying attention to what is happening because nothing good will come out of there. These 6 years of preparations and mobilization have taught us how to act in the current situation, always prepared for the call of the fatherland.

Additional Editorial

PA220026 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Differences on How To Attack Us"]

[Text] The immoral and illegal U.S. Congress debate has not ended. We can conclude that one of the warmongering and interventionist alternatives has been temporarily weakened by the House of Representatives' negative vote on the $100 million requested by Reagan to continue the mercenary war against the Nicaraguan people.

The close final vote proves that President Ronald Reagan imposed the ideological and political conditions of the debate, and the important follow-up vote now rises threateningly as happened a year ago during a similar vote.

We should recall that in 1985 President Ronald Reagan proposed to Congress the approval of $14 million for the mercenary forces. The representatives' vote, especially that of the democrats, rejected the initiative by a difference of 30 votes.

In the end, however, the same Congress, with the democrat's support, granted $27 million for so-called "humanitarian aid."

With this backing, President Reagan's aggressive policies were strengthened and during that year the war escalated dangerously with the introduction of surface-to-air missiles, with greater Honduran involvement in support of mercenaries, the militarization of the Costa Rican Rural Police -- Murcielaga Base -- and increased military maneuvers, among other efforts to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution.

The 1985 experience and yesterday's vote -- after an intense political struggle in the United States -- leads us to the following conclusions:

1. President Ronald Reagan managed to achieve a consensus in the U.S. Congress among Republicans as well as Democrats regarding military solutions for Central America, specifically against Nicaragua. This was not only proven by the immoral proposal of $100 million, but also in the variations that are still pending discussions, which are advocated by Democratic congressmen.

Next 14 April there will be a hearing to debate at least six democratic proposals, four of which support military solutions in lieu of negotiations for a political solution.

With the exception of the proposals made by Congressmen Hamilton and Levine, the proposals are dangerous traps for the revolution. They conceal an ultimatum and blackmail against the revolution in apparent interest in "negotiation."

Hamilton's proposal sensibly seeks to end support for the mercenaries and to support Contadora. Levine is more specific and suggests support of the Latin American effort through support for Contadora, meeting with the Latin American presidents, resumption of the bilateral talks with Managua, a 6-month moratorium on military exercises in Central America, encouraging bilateral solutions to border conflicts, and not providing sophisticated weapons to the neighbors of Nicaragua.

These were the most dignified positions discussed yesterday. Nevertheless, they do not represent the majority of the congressmen's opinions. On the contrary, there is still the threat of Reagan's militaristic position being renewed through negotiations with the Democrats in the coming weeks, preserving its most dangerous elements, that is, the concept of military aid and involvement by U.S. advisers in the war.

2. On 24 March a variation of Reagan's proposal will be debated in the Senate, and there are strong probabilities that it will be supported. This would pave the way for new pressures and drives to force a favorable vote that would allow Reagan to call a conference of both houses that could result in an alternative solution such as the $27 million in "humanitarian aid."

An agreement in this regard would make Reagan's declaration of war official, and would allow an escalation of the war. For the past 6 years the U.S. Administration has acted against the will of the American people, most of whom have rejected the military aid to the contras.

3. President Reagan's anticommunist speech deeply influenced the debates of the past few days, and the Democrats practically had to go against the current to prove that they are not "procommunists," or simply "antipatriots" by failing to support the $100 million proposal. In response to this we must point out the dignified position of Democratic leader O'Neill when he rejected President Reagan's (?masochistic) tactics.

Nevertheless, as Reagan himself confirmed yesterday after the debate, the blackmail and (?confusion) of militarily involving the United States with arms and advisers to save the mercenaries from a definite defeat will continue.

4. Let us hope that the Nicaraguan people's attitude will be more alert than ever. The provocative maneuvers on the northern border, the CIA plan in northern Zelaya, the deployment of U.S. warships to our coasts, the inconclusive debates at the U.S. Congress must give us the incentive to promote a permanent mobilization for defense and production to defeat the terrorism that threatens our country.

HONDURAN ARMY UNITS REPORTEDLY ON ALERT

PA230215 Managua International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Several Honduran Army combat units are on alert at the Nicaraguan border, a Honduran presidential spokesman has reported. In addition, the Honduran High Command has ordered the deployment of some battalions to specific locations near the borderline. Honduran residents at the border with Nicaragua have reported that hundreds of Somozist counterrevolutionaries continue to arrive in this territory to set up camp near several villages in El Paraiso Department.

CARRION LEADS DELEGATION TO KSC CONGRESS

PA221313 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate informs the following:

Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, member of the FSLN National Directorate and deputy minister of the interior, is heading the FSLN delegation that will attend the 17th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [KSC] to be held from 24 to 27 March.

The delegation will also include Lea Guido and Victor Hugo Tinoco, members of the Sandinist Assembly.

Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate

Managua, 20 March 1986

25 years later, all weapons against aggression!

GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY SET UP BASES NEAR BORDER

PA221240 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, Honduras -- Residents from the eastern Department of El Paraiso have reported that during the past few days Somozist mercenaries have set up new military bases only 8 and 15 km from the Nicaraguan border. They also said that the mercenaries operating from Honduran territory have created a state of anxiety among the 17,000 residents of the Arenales area who have had to abandon their homes for a safer place and that is why they are flocking to the city of Danli. The residents said that for the past 4 days Arenales has lived under prewar state.

ARDE, OTHER GROUPS JOIN TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVE

PA232347 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Mar 86 p 5

[By Benigno Quesada]

[Text] Ciudad Quesada -- Anti-Sandinist rebel groups have been joining those from Morgan Island and Tango post in order to launch a major offensive on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast and encircle the Sandinist forces fighting against them in the area. The groups are from Nicaraguan Opposition Unity [UNO-FAR] led by "Negro" [Fernando] Chamorro; ARDE by "Chaparro" and "Domingo;" and Brooklyn Rivera's Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas Sandinist Unity [Misurasata].

LA PRENSA LIBRE was told that even though there is no agreement among the rebels' upper echelons to fight together, they are determined to form a southern front in practice to rout the Sandinists from the Boca de Sarapiqui, La Penca, and Tango 2 posts with help from Commanders "Oscar," "Franklin," "Navagante," and "Lionel," who recently signed the "Campaign Agreement" ["Pacto de Campana"] with UNO-FAR.

The rebel groups are experiencing serious difficulties because they lack food, clothing, shoes, and some ammunition, but they are receiving help from several countries and from the peasants in the area where they are located. Proof of the fact that a major operation is in the offing is that many Nicaraguans have decided to move to Costa Rica as refugees. Statistics show that approximately 50 people are entering [Costa Rica] daily through Tambor and Tamborcito after being helped across the San Juan River by these groups. At the Alba Peral post alone there are currently over 1,000 refugees, and the Costa Rican Red Cross is trying to send most of them to other refugee camps in the country to ease the overcrowding. There are approximately 300 people at Boca Arenal, and 100 people arrived recently at the new post of Tamborcito, where immigration officials duly registered them.

REACTION TO U.S. HOUSE VOTE ON CONTRA AID

'Setback' for Reagan

FL211228 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The setback experienced by President Ronald Reagan in his effort to support the mercenary forces that have been aiding the aggressive U.S. policy against Nicaragua is serious. Reagan has temporarily had his plans detained because the U.S. House of Representatives rejected his proposal to supply the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries with $100 million in aid. The House rejected the proposal despite the conciliatory maneuvers initiated at the last minute by the White House, which suspended for 90 days the renewal of military aid to the Somozist bands but still allowed for the supply of anti-aircraft missiles, logistics assistance, and training.

Responsible media representatives lashed out at the tactics used by Reagan administration officials during the debate, which had questioned the patriotism of those opposing Reagan's proposal. Those tactics were compared to the tactics prevailing during the McCarthy era and the so-called cold war.

After learning of the defeat in the House, President Reagan said nothing more than that session was a dark day for liberty. He confirmed that he will try and revoke the decision and added that he expects to win in the Senate, which begins debate on Reagan's proposal on Tuesday. Nicaragua responded to Reagan's aggressive declarations by calling for reflection and prudent action to give peace another opportunity. The Managua government also made clear that the struggle for peace is equally able to confront the mercenary forces or U.S. advisers and troops if the U.S. President should send them to Nicaragua.

It can be determined from this panorama that besides the setback experienced by the Reagan administration in Congress, the true defeat will occur with the Nicaraguan people, Latin America, and world public opinion, which opposes Washington's intention to continue criminally aggravating Nicaragua.

Tunnerman Comments

PA221632 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Report by Abraham Quijano, Managua Radio Sandino reporter]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government's first reaction to the U.S. House of Representatives vote against President Reagan's request for $100 million in aid for the counterrevolution was made by Carlos Tunnerman, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States. The U.S. House of Representatives today dealt President Reagan a blow, Ambassador Tunnerman said. In statements to Radio Sandino, Ambassador Tunnerman said that the U.S. press, radio, and television are reporting that the House of Representatives today voted against President Reagan's request for $100 million in aid to the counterrevolutionaries.

Despite this rejection, victory cannot be claimed because there are other phases that must be completed and these could lead to the approval of the military aid to the mercenaries so that they may continue their war against Nicaragua, the ambassador said. Tunnerman stressed that even though Nicaragua and Latin America obtained a victory today because we want negotiations, the Nicaraguan people must continue to be vigilant and to be prepared to defend the country because of the White House's irrational policy to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution.

GRANMA Analysis

PA221627 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[From the "What the Press Has To Say" feature read by Maruja Garcia and Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Under the title: "A Little Salt and Pepper in the Yankee's Soup," Cuban newspaper GRANMA analyzes the situation prevailing in various U.S. sectors prior to the House of Representative's decision to disapprove Ronald Reagan's plan to give the former Somozist guards $100 million.

The newspaper states that events in the United States prior to Congress' discussion of the military aid requested by the President are unmistakable proof of a repression never before seen, at least in so many places and at the same time.

Rolando Moneses, who signed the commentary, recalled that in Minnesota, for example, at least 90 persons opposed to the funding of the mercenaries were arrested. More than three dozen people were fined for refusing to leave the offices of Senators Rudy Boschwitz and David Durenberger where they sought the withdrawal of U.S. aid to the contras attacking Nicaragua. The article states that Mary Lahr Senator Boschwitz' spokesperson, said that dozens of demonstrators who entered the office were peaceful and only read statements and sang.

The GRANMA article, which discusses the situation in the United States prior to the congressional vote on the $100 million for the contras, adds that in other parts of that country there were massive demonstrations against Reagan's project.

In Albany, New York State, GRANMA states, nine people were jailed and accused of disorderly conduct when they protested against support of the Somozist gangs. While this was going on, said Rolando Meneses, Robert Dole, the leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, said at the top of his voice that the anti-Nicaraguan proposal would win the vote.

Nevertheless, GRANMA explains, Senator Robert Lotz, in charge of counting the Republican votes, said that the future of the President's proposal to obtain $100 million in aid for the contras is uncertain.

Another Republican, Thomas Foley, who apparently was following the count quite closely, did not stop saying euphorically: We will win the vote.

In the article referring to the atmosphere in the United States prior to the negative vote in the House of Representatives, GRANMA states that one ingredient that hindered the count and the predictions was the statement made to the press by Thomas O'Neill president [as received] of the House of Representatives. O'Neill said that the $100 million was only the beginning because Reagan would certainly need more money in coming years. These words, the Cuban newspaper article says, put the salt on a soup of statements, imprisonment, fines, and counts. The pepper was provided by David (McMitchell), former analyst for the CIA who, upon returning from a 1-month stay in Nicaragua, said: The contras have been reduced to nothing and they are constantly pursued.

The truth, GRANMA concludes, was written a long time ago and the near-sighted White House residents could not see it. With $100 million, and all the millions sent later to fill the hands of the criminals with weapons, the Sandinist revolution will trample every attack against the Nicaraguan people. This has been demonstrated since 19 July 1979, when the satrap was ousted. It is not only a matter of a revolution that defends a people, it is a people in revolution.

Ortega: Vote Does Not End War

PA220309 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Report from Managua by correspondent Estrella Diaz, no date given -- recorded]

[Text] The national press has reacted strongly to the press conference broadcast last night by the Sistema Sandanista Television Network in which Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra presented his country's official position on the vote at the U.S. House of Representatives, in which approval of the $100 million for the counterrevolutionary groups was denied by a narrow margin of 12 votes.

At the press conference Commander Ortega pointed out that for Nicaragua it is not important if the U.S. Congress votes for or against the $100 million Reagan has requested. What we reject, he said, is the debate itself, which shows a lack of respect for the entire world. In this regard, the president also stressed that the congressional debates are illegal and immoral and they go against international public opinion. The fact that they voted agianst the proposal, Commander Ortega said, does not mean that war has ended. On the contrary, the aggression continues and in Honduras even the maneuvers scheduled for April have been moved up to coincide with the deployment of 5,000 Honduran troops toward Nicaraguan territory.

The Nicaraguan president warned that the fact that Reagan is talking about using military advisers is the beginning of the conflict's Vietnamization, and he stressed that the American President is seeking a way to continue advancing in order to conclude his criminal project and invade Nicaragua, which would result in considerable bloodshed.

Attempt To 'Vietnamize' Area

PA240153 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has cautioned that Ronald Reagan is trying to Vietnamize Central America and that this will represent greater difficulties for the countries of the region and also for the U.S. people. Speaking to members of the Sandinist Defense Committees, Ortega stated that the counterrevolutionaries are defeated and have no future because they lack the support of the people. He also said that if Washington sends military advisers to the mercenaries, they will die in Nicaragua. He reiterated that his country will resist to the last consequences any eventual direct attack by the United States.

Ronald Reagan, meanwhile, has complained about the way he has been treated by those opposed to his meddling in Nicaragua and emphasized that in spite of his defeat in the House of Representatives, he will insist on obtaining $100 million in aid for Nicaraguan-born counterrevolutionaries.

Reagan To 'Pressure' Senate

PA232355 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has begun an intense campaign to pressure the U.S. Senate to approve $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

This aid was rejected yesterday by the U.S. House of Representatives. After describing the House's vote against the aid as a black day for freedom, President Reagan said that he will struggle for the Senate to approve the requested aid. The negative vote in the House of Representatives has been described as a personal defeat for Ronald Reagan. He was the one that headed, developed, and promoted the campaign in favor of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. If the U.S. Senate approves the President's request, the House of Representatives will then have to vote on the alternatives presented in this regard on 15 April.

U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S VISIT TO NICARAGUA REPORTED

PA230235 Managua International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Without the slightest shame, four U.S. congressmen who voted for [as heard] the Nicaraguan people's death and destruction, arrived in Managua Friday. Accosted by local and foreign journalists, the visitors brazenly insisted that Nicaragua constitutes a danger for the United States, but did not specify the type of threat they had in mind. Once again, these U.S. congressmen reasserted President Ronald Reagan's warmongering policy which he executes irresponsibly against the Nicaraguan people. The U.S. delegation is formed by Senators [as heard] G.V. Montgomery, Kenneth J. Gray, Sander Levin and George W. Darden.

Ramirez on Meeting Delegation

PA230107 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Live telephone report from Managua by Estrella Diaz, special Radio Havana correspondent]

[Text] The defeat that President Reagan has suffered in the House of Representatives has not made him stop his aggressive efforts, Rather, he is preparing to introduce destabilization factors and terrorism in Nicaragua through an illegal, unlawful, unfair, and immoral support to the counterrevolutionary forces. This statement was made today, Saturday, by Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez during a brief news conference he held shortly after meeting with four Democratic congressmen who have been visiting Managua since yesterday. This delegation has carried out an extensive program that has included talks with the political parties opposed to the FSLN and with high-ranking leaders of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise.

In his statements to the local press as well as to the foreign press accredited to Managua, Vice President Ramirez stressed that Nicaragua will continue to receive delegations of U.S. politicians, regardless of the position they assume in the U.S. Congress with regard to approving or not approving the proposal of military aid for the contras. Ramirez noted that proof of this is that two of the congressmen who compose the delegation -- those of the states of Mississippi and Georgia -- advocate granting to the mercenary bands the $100 million proposed by President Reagan. Answering a question as to whether this visit could be described as an ultimatum to the revolution, he answered:

[Begin recording] I do not think this involves an ultimatum because, at any rate, we do not accept ultimatums from anybody. We are engaged in a war here. We are fighting this war. More than anything, this war is being waged in military terms. And it is in military terms that we are defeating the counterrevolution in every sphere [campos]. This war also has political connotations. It also involves international political factors, even in the United States, because this war is being directed by President Reagan himself, who is the head of the counterrevolution. I did not say he is the chief of the contras. He did.

So, if the head of the contras is in the White House, this means that we are waging a war that involves the White House. That is why U.S. congressmen come here because, in addition, President Reagan burdens them with the serious problem of having to decide about the military aid for the counterrevolution, of which he is the supreme commander. Therefore, this is also a political problem and not only a military problem. [end recording]

For this part, the four U.S. congressmen refused to answer questions from the press but did state that tough topics had been discussed. Sunday, before leaving for the United States, the Democratic congressmen announced that they will hold a news conference at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport. That is all for the time being, dear listeners.

CONTADORA GROUP AT OAS URGES STOP TO CONTRA AID

PA221724 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Speaking before the OAS Political Council, the countries that form the Contadora and Support Groups have asked the U.S. to stop supporting the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. On behalf of the eight Latin American countries that comprise the two groups, Venezuelan Ambassador Edilberto Moreno said that it is necessary to reiterate the duty of each state to resolve its differences by peaceful means and refrain from using direct or indirect force.

H. ORTEGA INTERVIEW WITH MEXICAN PAPER NOTED

PA221402 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Nicaragua has reaffirmed its right to arm itself to face any U.S. attack and has called on Honduras to sign a border agreement similar to the one signed with Costa Rica. During an interview with the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega said that no Central America country is threatening Nicaragua, and that only the United States constitutes a problem for that Central American country. Ortega added that Nicaragua is entitled to arm itself in view of this situation. He warned that the U.S. CIA will try to boycott the work by the border commission established by Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

U.S. PLAN TO MOVE MISKISTOS TO NICARAGUA ALLEGED

PA222341 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Sandinist authorities have disclosed that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is planning to send approximately 1,000 Miskito Indians from Honduras to Nicaragua to establish a provisional government on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast and scuttle the current process to grant autonomy to that region.

Subcommanders Jose Gonzalez and Salvador Perez explained that the CIA plan is being implemented in coordination with the "Cabanas 86" maneuvers which the United States is conducting on Honduran territory. These military exercises, which are being carried out by Yankee troops, provide the logistical cover to move the Miskito Indians, who have been manipulated for a long time into opposing the Sandinist revolution. During the last few weeks; the counterrevolutionary station Miskus, which broadcasts from Honduras, has been calling on the Miskito Indians at Rio Coco to move to their territory and has also been announcing that the invasion of Nicaragua will begin in April.

SPOKESMAN ON CARABALLEDA DOCUMENT, U.S. TIES

PA211340 Paris AFP in Spanish 0907 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Havana, 19 Mar (AFP) -- Cuba's official silence on the Caraballeda message "should not have been taken to mean that there are doubts or reservations about the document," a government spokesman said this afternoon. Without naming Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero, the spokesman said that "anybody backing" the current U.S. policies toward Nicaragua "is making a serious mistake, betting on a horse that will lose in the end." He labelled U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as "at the least, very indiscreet." Shultz told the Congress that although Latin American leaders publicly criticize Washington's anti-Sandinist policies, they privately support them.

The Cuban Government source stressed that Shultz "could not give the Congress a single example" of that statement. "He offended governments which are not enemies of the United States with a generalized and unsubstantiated charge," he said. Quite the contrary, "Latin America is not going to stand by idly in the face of a direct U.S. attack" against the Sandinist government," the spokesman said during a meeting with foreign newsmen summoned regarding recent statements by Peruvian President Alan Garcia. [quotation marks as received]

"The aid to the contas is one of many ways of wasting the U.S. taxpayers' money and resources. The dollars will turn them from inefficient bandits to inefficient guerrillas," he said. "Central America's key problem is Reagan's war policies toward Sandinism. If he does not forsake that obsession, he will have no other recourse but to send U.S. troops," the spokesman remarked.

As a result of this obsession, President Reagan commits "high-level blunders' such as having stated that Sandinism trains Brazilian guerrillas, an assertion that led Brasilia to ask for explanations, he said.

The Cuban spokesman reiterated his government's support for the Contadora Group, reiterated his government's support for the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the Caraballeda declaration, and he insisted on a negotiated solution for the Central American issue. "It would be improper for each country to issue a statement commenting on each phrase of each document and each declaration," he said. Cuba is in "close understanding" with Mexico, Argentina, Peru, and Uruguay, which are members of those groups, and with whom it has diplomatic relations and "quite a flowing dialogue."

The spokesman evaluated the current relations between the United States and Cuba as being "at their lowest point." Through the reciprocal diplomatic offices in Washington and Havana, he ironically stated, "we have contacts that are limited to consular affairs or the exchange of disagreements about some points."

SPAIN REFUSES EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR SANCHEZ

FL221150 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Spain has turned down a request from Cuba to extradite former Cuban Economy Vice Minister Manuel Antonio Sanchez Perez. Cuba has charged Mr Sanchez with trying to embezzle $500,000 of public money. Mr Sanchez, meanwhile, says he earned the money in commissions on bonus deals in Europe. The former Cuban official gained worldwide attention in December when four Cuban Embassy officials tried to kidnap him at gunpoint in downtown Madrid, Mr Sanchez asked Spain for asylum in November. Earlier this week, the Interior Ministry recommended against granting him political asylum. A final decision on his fate is now up to the Spanish Cabinet.

HAITI

ARMED FORCES REORGANIZE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

PA212010 Paris AFP in Spanish 1943 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Mar (AFP) — The Haitian Armed Forces today reorganized the National Government Council (CNG) after four of its members resigned, General Henri Namphy, president of the council, announced in Port-au-Prince. The Council, created on 7 February after President-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier left power, is now composed of Gen Namphy (president), Colonel Williams Regala (interior and defense minister), and Jacques Francois, current foreign minister.

The members who left the CNG are: Gerard Gourgue (who resigned yesterday from the CNG and the Justice Ministry), Colonels Prosper Avril, and Max Valles (minister of information and public relations), and Alex Cineas, minister without portfolio. Col Max Valles retains his duties as information minister. However, it was not confirmed whether Cineas will remain at the head of his ministry.

Today Gen Namphy criticized the attitude "of ill-intentioned individuals who are cleverly deceitful and want to rob the people of the fruit of their victory" by maintaining in the country "a climate of violence, upheaval, and disruption, the disastrous possibilities of which are clearly visible."

Meanwhile, in Port-au-Prince antigovernment demonstrations as well as a general transportation strike, which began last Wednesday, continue.

GOURGUE EXPLAINS REASONS FOR RESIGNATION

PA212014 Paris AFP in Spanish 1948 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Santo Domingo, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Gerard Gourgue, the only non-Duvalierist member of the Council of Government that replaced dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier in Haiti, resigned yesterday because "the expectations and demands of the people have not been met."

Gourgue, who was also the justice minister, spoke to the evening newspaper ULTIMA HORA of Santo Domingo in a telephone interview this morning. Regarding his immediate political future, he said that he will "wait for events to happen," implying that his estrangement from political activity might not be definitive. He noted that he will continue to be the president of the Human Rights League of Haiti through which position in 1979, he became one of the persistent critics of Duvalier's lifetime regime.

Regarding the general situation in Haiti, Gourgue said that it is "not too bad but not too good" and that one must anticipate "the decisions that may be made by the authorities" and the attitude of the people, who hope for the implementation of a democratic regime that will leave behind the 28 years of dynastic power exercised by the Duvaliers.

According to the newspaper, Gourgue implied that in the next few days there may be new changes in the Haitian transition government.

FORMER PRESIDENT FIGNOLE RETURNS FROM EXILE

PA211546 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0213 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Mar (DPA) -- A crowd of hundreds of thousands of Haitians gave a warm reception to former Haitian President Daniel Fignole, who returned to Port-au-Prince today after 28 years in exile in New York.

Fignole, known as "the professor," was one of the most popular leaders of the Caribbean island of Haiti. The masses followed him without question. A provisional president for 18 days in 1957, he went into exile after being overthrown by a military coup.

The people took to the streets and cheerfully shouted "professor, professor" as the government limousine in which the politician was riding went from the airport to downtown Port-au-Prince.

Political observers in Haiti say that the return of the septuagenarian politician stirred up a new feeling of hope among the people, who are increasingly disappointed with the junta which, following Gerard Gourgue's resignation today, is made up exclusively of former close collaborators of "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

STUDENTS, BUS DRIVERS PROTEST DEATHS OF 5 PEOPLE

FL211500 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] In Haiti, thousands of students demonstrated outside the national palace, at a university in Port-au-Prince, and at the Ministry of Education yesterday to protest the killing of five people by soldiers.

Bus drivers in a suburb went on strike and burned tires to protest the shooting which took place Wednesday as soldiers fired on the crowd of people who attempted to prevent the arrest of a bus driver.

FBIS

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SOVIET AMBASSADOR ASKS FOR DISARMAMENT SUPPORT

PY230208 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Mar 86 p 15

[Text] Brasilia -- Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Chernyshev yesterday addressed the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee and asked for Brazilian support for the Soviet nuclear disarmament proposal, which has been rejected by the U.S. Government. Brazil's support was sought because it "enjoys a recognized international prestige." In search of this support for the Soviet disarmament proposals, which were approved during the 27th CPSU Congress in January [as published], Ambassador Chernyshev has met with President Jose Sarney, and the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate, Ulysses Guimaraes and Jose Fragelli, respectively. During yesterday's speech the Soviet ambassador criticized the "reactionary forces of the imperialist world" which are stimulating war and the arms race to preserve their power and impose their will on people.

COOPERATION COMMISSION FORMED WITH URUGUAY

PY220022 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1841 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Brasilia 21 Mar (EFE) -- It was officially reported today that the Brazilian and Uruguayan Governments today initiated a new phase in their relations that will broaden their economic cooperation and coordination. Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre and his Uruguayan counterpart Enrique Iglesias, together with their respective entourages, today established in Brasilia a general coordination commission that was created 11 years ago but which never worked for lack of political will. Minister Iglesias arrived in Brasilia yesterday for a 24-hour meeting, his third in a year. His entourage includes Uruguayan Minister of the Interior Carlos Rios, Industry and Commerce Minister Carlos Piran, Agriculture and Fishery Minister Roberto Vazquez Platero, and acting Economy Minister Luis Mosca.

Sodre and Iglesias pointed out the importance of bilateral cooperation within a democratic framework and the contribution of this effort in favor of social integration. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry today reported on the establishment of the commission and said that the relations between the two democratic governments are "at their best."

The Uruguayan group's visit will expedite the plans for exportations of rice and beef, which are products that are on the list of Brazilian priorities to guarantee domestic supply after the drastic economic measures put in force nearly a month ago. Brazil is committed to buying up to 20,000 tons of beef. The Uruguayan delegation will be received in a special audience today by President Jose Sarney.

HAITI REQUESTS EXTRADITION OF EX-POLICE CHIEF

PY241811 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 86 p 14

[By Jose Arbex, special envoy to Port-au-Prince]

[Excerpt] Haiti has formally asked Brazil to extradite Colonel Alberto Pierre, the [former] chief of Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier's secret police, who has been exiled to Fernando Noronha Island since 25 February. The extradition request was announced on Friday by Haitian Justice Minister Jacques Francois during his first speech as a member of the new government junta set up the day before yesterday and presided over by General Henri Namphy, 53. Brazilian Ambassador to Haiti Paulo Frassinetti, 61, has confirmed that the extradition request has already been lodged and stated that the new Haitian Government has sent Ambassador Yves Massillon to Brasilia to handle the case.

PAPER AGREES WITH REAGAN'S C.A. THESIS

PY212233 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Mar 86 p 3

["Notes and Information" page: "Owed and Necessary Explanation"]

[Text] The international responsibility of President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz lends weight to statements asserting that Nicaragua has become a springboard for the spread of subversion not only to Central America, but to South America as well. An observer of Central American developments has certainly noticed that 1986 has seen a "verbal escalation" on the part of those who are responsible for the U.S. foreign policy -- an escalation that attributes to the Sandinists a widening area of action.

Last November, for instance, the State Department affirmed in an official document the Sandinists' support of insurgent groups -- in the way of "organization, command and control, training, logistic and communications support -- has been the primary factor in determining the duration and the scope of the conflict in Central America, especially in El Salvador. A few months later, on 27 February to be precise, the secretary of state expanded the area of action of the Sandinists, saying that Brazilians may have been among those who had received military training from the Nicaraguan Government. The prompt reaction of the Brazilian Government, which was interested in knowing up to what point Shultz's statement could be true, elicited an answer that did not offer much explanation: The State Department said it was sorry that the secretary had unduly made use of information regarding Brazil, but did not say whether the information was true. Now it is Reagan who makes a similar charge in the context of his battle to obtain congressional authorization for his plan to grant financial assistance to the contras.

According to the U.S. President, "The Nicaraguan communists have given support in the form of military training, shelter, communications, false documents, safe-conduct, and, sometimes, weapons to radicals in the following countries:....Brazil..." This statement offers many options, from weapons to false documents. Since everyone knows that Sandinist officials have been seeking coffee pickers in Brazil and that youngsters volunteered for a job they detest in Brazil, we can suspect that they have gone to Nicaragua seeking something else, not the heavy work of picking coffee. All this, however, was done in broad daylight, with the prospective guerrillas being photographed for the newspapers. As it was said of the SNI [National Intelligence Service] during the times of General Golbery, at least newspapers are read by the Brazilian intelligence services.

It would be only normal that the publicized shipment of that bunch of brave volunteers, who went to prop up the cause of the Nicaraguan economy against the U.S. monster, be registered by the Brazilian police, and even by the CIA if it is true what is said about it, that it has at least one agent in each country. If the shipment of volunteers was registered, and it should have been, it should not be strange that President Reagan should say that Nicaragua has supplied those Brazilians with military training, or false documents, or arms, or a combination thereof.

The inconveniences to the U.S. charge d'affaires, who is forced to leave the embassy and report to Itamaraty to hear requests for explanation or clarification, are ultimately caused by the question that prompts President Reagan to say over a television network that Nicaragua is threatening the stability of the countries mentioned. Cuba, which has become a well-behaved agent of Moscow in Africa, is no longer the question. Now it is Nicaragua that poses the greatest danger for Central and South America.

Statements such as those we referred to before must not give rise to doubts nor can their explanation be kept within the walls of the foreign services. It is important to know if in fact, Nicaragua is training Brazilian guerrillas or if it is serving as a meeting place for radicals who are given military training and false documents in preparation for any eventuality. This question cannot be of interest for Itamaraty and the State Department alone. If the statements by Reagan and Shultz reflect a misinterpretation of received information, they should be frowned upon because of the unjustified concern they have created -- and because they might be seen as a White House attempt to use the name of Brazil to obtain funds from the U.S. Congress: if those statements reflect the truth, they are of interest to the entire Brazilian society. Therefore, those statements must be duly clarified by Washington and its clarification transmitted to the Brazilian people by Itamaraty.

ENGESA CHIEF DISCUSSES ARMS SALES ETHICS

PY242136 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Mar 86

[By Dalton Moreira]

[Excerpt] Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] President Jose Luis Whitaker Ribeiro believes that Brazil is the only country that maintains ethical standards on the international arms market, despite the fact that according to the United Nations, Brazil is the world's fifth largest arms supplier. Engesa is Brazil's largest arms manufacturer.

In an exclusive interview granted to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, Whitaker said that other suppliers, like the United States, do not follow the same line of conduct because they provide arms to both sides in a conflict, as in the case of Iran and Iraq. Brazil is selling arms only to Iraq, and has no commercial ties with Iran. At Engesa's administrative headquarters in Barueri (a district in greater Sao Paulo), Whitaker said that on the world market arms sales amount to $800 billion annually, of which Third World suppliers account for only $15 billion with the rest shared by the United States and the USSR. He said he expects Engesa's sales to reach $600 million this year.

Whitaker defended the autonomy of the Brazilian arms manufacturers and criticized the United States, where lobbies [preceding word in English] exert strong pressure against new suppliers. As an example, he mentioned the economic boycott that the United States recently tried to impose on Libya despite the fact that U.S. arms suppliers are doing business with that country. President Reagan had charged that Libya is involved in terrorist actions. "They can sell, but we cannot. This is absurd. They have no authority over us," he stressed.

The Engesa president tried to rebut the criticism of the Brazilian military industry by stating that arms produce dollars for the country. He also said that Engesa has helped open new markets for other products. He explained that it is the arms purchasers and not the Brazilian Government which demand that contracts be kept secret. However, he admitted that arms exports must be subject to bureaucratic procedures to safeguard the interests of Brazil.

BRIEFS

VENEZUELA DRUGS MEETING -- (Tercio Lins da Silva), president of the Federal Narcotics Council, is taking part in a meeting in Venezuela to discuss measures to prevent drug trafficking on the Brazilian-Venezuelan border. The purpose of the meeting is to renew the agreement signed in 1977 aimed at controlling drug trafficking through Amazonas and Amapa. [Summary] [Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Mar 86 PY]

BOLIVIA'S PAZ HAS 'PRAGMATIC' VIEW ON SEA OUTLET

PY241515 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has conveyed a message of peace and understanding to Chile, giving a pragmatic turn to the Bolivian policy of achieving the aspiration of overcoming Bolivia's land-locked situation. Reports datelined La Paz state that the head of state explained the new Bolivian position during the celebrations held to mark Ocean Day, in memory of Bolivian hero Eduardo Abarca.

Paz Estenssoro said that the unforfeitable Bolivian right of having an outlet to the sea must take a new course because, in his opinion, [word indistinct] no way conducive to the pragmatic imperative of overcoming Bolivia's geographic isolation. He added that pragmatism does not involve straight forwardly accepting any type of solution, feeling that on the threshold of the 21st century, dogmatism and the pride of the victor and the conquered have lost meaning. The Bolivian president stated: Let us use wisdom and creativity to find mutually advantageous arrangements to this century-old problem, and let us search for policies to strengthen our common struggle against imperialism, thus ensuring a search for an honorable solution.

Del Valle Responds

PY242129 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has labeled the Bolivian president's statement about resuming diplomatic relations with Chile as interesting. Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has reiterated his proposal to search for a new direction in the Bolivian diplomatic relations with Chile. Minister del Valle labeled Paz' statement interesting and said that it confirms previous statements made by the Bolivian president.

[Begin Del Valle recording] It seems like a confirmation of what was being said by the Bolivian Foreign Ministry and on this occasion it comes from the president. This is very important because it confirms a policy that we saw coming. It also confirms the arrival of the Bolivian consul general to Santiago and I believe this is a good sign. We continue to wait with the same attitude [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Minister del Valle indicated that for the time being he is not going to make any further statements on this issue. He said that this issue will be discussed when the new consul general,Jorge Siles Salinas, arrives.

ZUCCOLILLO PREDICTS STROESSNER TO BACK 'PUPPET'

PY241516 Paris AFP in Spanish 2046 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Asuncion, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Aldo Zuccolillo, the owner of the closed newspaper ABC COLOR, today stated that President Alfredo Stroessner will give up his post to a civilian puppet in 1988 but that he will retain power through the powers granted him in a special Armed Forces law. The Military Personnel Statute was approved very rapidly by Congress in December 1980, 1 day before the end of that year's sessions. This was explained to the correspondents of foreign news agencies and some local reporters by the businessman-journalist.

Zuccolillo said that this document allows commanders and officers to administrate their assets and to carry out technical and professional activities in the civilian sector, meaning that they can be businessmen, cattlemen, industrialists, professionals, bankers, money changes, and insurance company owners. But Zuccolillo stressed that the military officers need one prerequisite to carry out these activities: The prior authorization of the commander in chief. The commander in chief can also demand a report on the nature of their assets, request or stop their promotions, and order their firing, he added.

Zuccolillo stated that the commander in chief can retain a military officer in service even if he has reached the legal retirement age. He explained that the limit for active service is 35 years for all officers, with one exception: that of the commander in chief himself, for whom there is no time or age limit.

Continuing his explanation of Stroessner's change of strategy to keep the strings of power in his hands after the 1988 presidential elections, the ABC COLOR owner made it clear that the Military Personnel Statute allows people in uniform to carry out political activities. Previous laws were different, but now they can carry out that type of activity, and it is evident that the law was drafted exclusively for the commander in chief so that he can decide the future and careers of the officers, Zuccolillo added. He also stressed that Stroessner will not accept the presidential candidacy in 1988 because he will not be able to bear the internal and external pressures, but he will surprise international public opinion by supporting the candidacy of a civilian puppet.

SALDIVAR DEPARTS FOR TALKS IN BRASILIA

PY241224 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 9

[Excerpts] Paraguayan Foreign Minister Carlos A. Saldivar traveled to Brasilia on 23 March to discuss "bilateral matters" with his Brazilian colleague, Abreu Sodre. Itaipu and the soybean railway are two of the topics that will be discussed during the meeting, with the purpose of trying to push them forward. "The meeting will have an open agenda so that matters that interest the governments and peoples of our countries" can be discussed, the minister stated, admitting that no topics have been set for the meeting. But it can safely be said that Itaipu, the soybean railway, and regional matters will be discussed.

SOVIET ENVOY ON NEGATIVE CONTRA AID VOTE

FL220044 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2315 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- President Ronald Reagan's failure to get the U.S. Congress to provide financial support for the Nicaraguan contras represents the discord that exists between the people and Government of the United States.

In stating the preceding, Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Sergeyev said the negative vote of the U.S. Congress is an internal political matter of that nation; he said it exemplifies the differences that exist between the aggressiveness of the U.S. Government toward Central America and what the people want.

The diplomat said that Reagan is continuing his interventionist, oppressive policy toward Nicaragua. He said his country will follow the development of events around the U.S. President's request for $100 million because the Senate still has to vote on the question.

He reiterated his government's support of the Contadora Group because it is believed that the Central American states can resolve their conflicts only through peaceful means. He added that the root of the problem in the region is the deep economic and social backwardness that exists for which reason these countries should receive aid.

SILVA HERZOG DEPARTS FOR MEETING IN COSTA RICA

FL221900 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1840 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog left today for San Jose, Costa Rica, where he will participate in the 27th annual meeting of the Assembly of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The meeting will analyze the IDB's loan policy in relation to the strategies proposed in the Baker Plan.

The meeting will be attended by representatives from 47 countries from Europe, the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez will officially open the meeting on Monday.

Silva Herzog is accompanied by Bank of Mexico Director Miguel Mancera Aguayo.

PEMEX DIRECTOR OUTLINES CURRENT OIL POLICY

PA241559 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 7

[By Jeanette Becerra Acosta]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the expropriation of petroleum, the director general of Mexican Petroleum (Pemex), Mario Ramon Beteta, stated that Mexico is the sole owner of its domestic and foreign energy sources. He also announced budget cuts and said that neither petrochemical refining nor concessions of hydrocarbon exploitation would ever be turned over to foreign hands. "Petroleum belongs to Mexico forever and to no one else," he said.

Beteta admitted that the country is experiencing a difficult situation in view of the decrease in petroleum prices, and therefore the industrial sector, which represents half of Mexico's tax income, is also experiencing a crisis. However, he forecast that we will surpass this crisis "as we did 48 years ago."

The official said that Pemex drills approximately 2.7 million barrels of crude oil and 3.6 billion cubic feet of gas daily, in addition to having a capacity to refine 1.2 million barrels per day. "Among all the industrial enterprises in the world," he added, "Pemex ranks among those at the top in profits and sales; and among the petroleum enterprises, it ranks fourth in production of hydrocarbons, fifth in volume of reserves, and fifth in exports."

Beteta reaffirmed that in spite of the uncertainty prevailing on the international hydrocarbon market, the institution's industrial potential remains unchanged inasmuch as it gains foreign currency, strengthens public credit, strengthens the country's international reputation, opens new employment possibilities for thousands of Mexicans and, above all, provides Mexicans with over 90 percent of the basic energy they require.

Beteta then referred to a topic that concerns many people: the cost of procuction vis-a-vis the decrease in petroleum prices. In this regard, the Pemex director strongly confirmed that the cost for that activity is advantageous, inasmuch as Mexican oil desposits -- particularly those in the area of Chiapas-Tabasco and the marine deposits in Campeche -- " are among the best in the world."

"Our participation in the export markets will not only depend on the cost per barrel and its relation to prevailing prices, but also on more profound reasons, such as safeguarding our national interests. Mexico will not squander its petroleum," he emphasized.

Beteta also announced that Pemex will reduce its expenses and will make severe adjustments, as far as investments are concerned and in areas related to the exploration and exploitation of the most promising regions and oil deposits in order to obtain the greatest yield with the least resources.

He also said that Pemex will continue its policy of substituting imports, its ecological programs in order to improve the environment, and will guide its production of basic petrochemicals towards those that -- through the secondary petrochemical industry and the manufacturing industry -- produce the greatest added value within the country.

CONEP COMMUNIQUE ON RECENT INCIDENTS, LAWS

PA241859 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 12 B

[Communique issued by the National Council of Private Enterprise, CONEP, in Panama City on 19 March]

[Text] In view of the grave incidents being experienced by the Panamanian nation and in view of our unavoidable duty to defend the democratic and free enterprise systems, CONEP feels the need to explain to the country, the citizens in general, the productive sectors, and all the political, social, and economic sectors, especially those who are responsible for leading the country, its position in the face of the incidents that are hurting the country's economy and the best national interests:

1. The executive branch's presentation of the labor, industrial, and agricultural bills to the Legislative Assembly forced CONEP to reject them publicly because they are not in line with the country's situation, do not produce an effective economic reactivation,and do not solve the serious unemployment problem.

2. We reject the way in which these bills were discussed and approved at the Legislative Assembly, which undoubtedly resulted in the violent acts in the country.

3. We reaffirm our unrestricted support for the private sectors now affected by the measures imposed by the national government.

4. We once again reiterate that isolated laws will not resolve the country's problem. This can be done by eradicating corruption, which is the basic cause for the national crisis that resulted in a total loss of values, a lack of leadership, a lack of credibility in officials and government institutions, a reduction in the quality and efficiency of public services, and the stagnation of the economy.

5. We issue a call for a halt to destabilizing actions, strikes, marches, stoppages, and protests. These are actions that hurt the workers and the country as a whole. In addition, they cause an intensification of the recession which affects every citizen of our fatherland.

We issue a call so that, within a framework of understanding and respect, the leaders and the people provide what the country needs to achieve the true peace, progress, and transquility that is urgently needed.

Issued in Panama City on 19 March 1986.

CONATO LEAVES UNADE PARTIES, JOINS OPPOSITION

PA241700 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Mar 86 pp 1, 7

[Text] The leaders of the National Council of Organized Workers [Conato] have asked the 150,000 workers affiliated with that labor coalition to resign from the parties that make up the UNADE (National Democratic Union): PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], PALA [Labor Party], Liberal Party, and Republican Party, whose legislators are held responsible for the reforms of the Labor Code.

Eduardo Rios of the Suntrass [Single National Union of Construction and Related Workers] said that from now on, the labor movement will be in the opposition, because "not a single worker in the country can be considered a member of the ruling parties."

In the same manner, Rios called for civil disobedience, stating that "we cannot pay taxes to the traitors, we cannot pay social security to the traitors; we must defeat those traitors and we must update our struggling methods."

For his part, Ricardo Monterrey, secretary general of the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama, said that "in the future, we will let no one deceive us with false Torrijist proclamations or pompous references to a social peace that no longer exists."

With Monterrey's statement, Conato rejected the much-publicized peace campaigns conducted by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the commander-in-chief of the National Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama.

BANANA WORKERS STRIKE CAUSES $40 MILLION IN LOSSES

PA241658 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] The Chiriqui Land Company has sustained losses that total approximately $40 million as a result of the strike that the workers of the Puerto Armuelles sector have been staging for the past 22 days to demand wage increases. The national treasury has lost almost $1 million.

Negotiations being held in David, Chiriqui, have come to a standstill because of the positions taken by the workers and the company regarding the salary proposal. The workers demand a fixed 9 percent increase in their salaries, while the company has proposed a general increase of $20,000 beginning in the 3d year. [sentence as published]

Executives of the fruit company have stated that any plantation lost as a consequence of this strike will not be rehabilitated, which will cause the suspension of operations in the Pacific sector.

Sources from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare have given assurances that they are talking with the parties in conflict in order to reach an agreement that benefits the 6,500 strikers and the fruit company.

At this time, the draft collective bargaining contract between the company and the workers has 458 clauses. The parties have reached agreement on matters related to fringe benefits and working conditions; however, no agreement has been reached on the wage increase.

PRESIDENT SIGNS INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL LAWS

PA211727 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] A few minutes ago in this capital, President Eric Arturo Delvalle signed the industrial and agricultural laws approved by the Legislative Assembly. The two laws are being sent tonight for publication tomorrow in the Official Gazette.

EL SALVADOR

BORDER ISSUE WITH HONDURAS TO GO TO THE HAGUE

PA240350 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta and Honduran Deputy Foreign Secretary Mario Carias Zapata signed an agreement today on border matters that they will present before the International Court of Justice in The Hague on 10 June. Ricardo Acevedo Peralta told the media:

[Begin recording] [Acevedo] We are pleased. We have made progress in drafting this agreement on procedures that clearly establish the rules for the presentation of the differences before the court in The Hague. We are very pleased with the advances we have achieved after 2 days of intense negotiations. My colleague and dear friend, Mario Carias Zapata, will explain the agreement to you.

[Carias] This is the third meeting that Salvadoran and Honduran delegations have held to draft an agreement that will allow us to present the land, island, and maritime differences of the two republics before the court in The Hague. Yesterday morning, yesterday afternoon, and this morning we held very good meetings. We are drafting the various articles. The agreement on commitments is not very long, but it does call for careful drafting. We must abide by the rules and statutes of the court. As Deputy Foreign Minister Acevedo Peralta said, we plan to make a joint presentation, and perhaps by late this year we will have the early reports from each of the parties involved. According to the General Peace Treaty, the deadline for the negotiations on the commitments is 10 June, and we feel that before that date we will have a document to submit for the approval of the two countries. [end recording]

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS DECISION

PA211848 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez stated today that the UN Human Rights Commission "will continue to observe the human rights situation in Guatemala." Reporting on his speech at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva on 3 March, Quinonez said that he received "support and help for the efforts to improve the country's status as a pluralist democracy."

However, the organization will continue to observe the human rights situation there to ensure that the government of President Vinicio Cerezo "fulfills its commitment to human rights in Guatemala." Quinonez Amezquita stated: "For the first time, after being condemned for human rights violations for 8 consecutive years, Guatemala was not condemned this year."

The UN Human Rights Commission met in Geneva, Switzerland, from mid-February to 15 March to discuss human rights in Guatemala and the information report by special reporter Viscount Colville de Culross. Without going into details, the foreign minister said "the Latin American countries on the commission have closed the books on Guatemala and have ended Culross' mandate." Quinonez Amezquita also explained that during the 42d assembly of the Human Rights Commission "the Guatemalan Government was encouraged to continue taking steps to enhance and protect human rights."

He added that some countries -- among them Austria, Canada, Spain, France, Ireland, and Norway -- presented a number of amendments to the draft resolution. The foreign minister added that despite this, at the close of the 13 March assembly a consensus was reached to "end the study of human rights in Guatemala without issuing a condemnation."

Quinonez Amezquita stated that the Cerezo government "has taken measures to protect human rights in line with the principles of international law, which form the basis of the country's policy and it has pledged to steer the country toward becoming a pluralist democracy. During his speech at the assembly, the foreign minister said he promised that the Christian Democratic government "will totally support human rights because for the people to have life they need freedom."

LOBOS APPOINTED NEW AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA

PA210325 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Former Deputy Head of State General Rodolfo Lobos Zamora was finally appointed Guatemalan ambassador to Panama. Diverse sectors have interpreted Lobos Zamora's appointment as proof of the good understanding between the previous military government and the current civilian government despite the insistent affirmations by Christian Democratic officials to the effect that a transition from one government to the other involves an overhaul that includes figures representing the state. One of the sectors opposing Lobos Zamora's appointment as Guatemalan ambassador to Panama is the Mutual Support Group. That group is striving to know the whereabouts of persons missing or kidnapped in the country over the past few years.

Lobos Zamora will replace reporter Raul Gonzalez Garza-Rivas as Guatemala's ambassador to Panama.

FORMER DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER VICTIM OF ATTACK

PA242307 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2214 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Colonel Raul Aburez, who was deputy defense minister in Oscar Mejia Victores' military government, and his wife were shot today.

The victims were taken to the military hospital, where ACAN-EFE was told that their condition "is delicate" due to bullet wounds. According to initial reports, the couple was driving to visit some relatives when they were suddenly attacked from another vehicle, whose occupants opened fire.

This incident comes in the wake of an ambush in which Rodrigo Rodriguez, vice president of the National Coffee Growers Association, was wounded today at the 200 km marker on the Pacific Highway. Rodriguez was on his way to one of his farms on the southern coast when he was intercepted by men driving a farm vehicle, who shot him in the head. Rodriguez was driving with his wife and four children. However, he was the only one wounded, although the attackers managed to overturn his car.

Defense Minister Jaime Hernandez said again today that "the wave of violence seeks to destabilize the government, because the subversives are desperate because this government has eliminated their banners to rally around."

He said, "For the guerrillas, it is not the same to act against military governments like those of Mejia Victores or Rios Montt, as against a government democratically elected by a substantial majority."

He also said that is why he does not believe that the former members of the police investigations department, disbanded by presidential order, "are now engaged in robbery, attacks, and murders as is popularly claimed."

HONDURAS

BORDER AREA 'TENSE'; NO STATE OF ALERT EXISTS

PA232345 Paris AFP in Spanish 2306 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Mar (AFP) -- A tense situation prevails in the communities of the eastern Department of El Paraiso on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border due to an increased presence of anti-Sandinist rebels, according to accounts of inhabitants of that region. However, Major Jorge Arguello, director of Public Relations of the Armed Forces, told AFP that "there is no state of alert" and refuted reports to that effect.

"The situation within the Armed Forces is normal, and this is the climate that exists in all its units," the spokesman added.

Honduran President Jose Azcona confirmed that last Wednesday troops were dispatched to the Nicaraguan border, but with the purpose of restoring calm among the inhabitants of El Paraiso. The president stated that the number of troops dispatched was far less than 5,000, which was the figure supplied by news reports.

The inhabitants of the sector of Arenales, El Paraiso -- 240 km east of this capital -- have made repeated calls to the Armed Forces to increase their presence in the region to guarantee their security. The farmers in Arenales have lost their crops several times, according to them, because of the presence of "contras" and incursions by the Sandinist Army, which has caused a climate of permanent tension in the region.

After Nicaragua sent armored vehicles and troops to its border with Honduras, the presence of "contras" has increased in the past few days in the sector of Arenales, according to inhabitants who have fled to more secure regions.

Inhabitants of El Porvenir village in the sector of Arenales said that 15 days ago anti-Sandinist rebels began to cross the border into Honduras and established three bases close to the border with Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams made a secret visit to Honduras on Friday that was not revealed until today, a diplomatic source confirmed to AFP. The source indicated that Abrams "met here with ranking officers of the Armed Forces." A military spokesman was asked about the visit and claimed not to have any knowledge of it, while the government house has not reported it, either.

Abrams visited Honduras 1 day after the U.S. Congress rejected the request for $100 million made by President Ronald Reagan for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

U.S. SOURCES REPORT ALLEGED SANDINIST 'RAID'

PA242121 Paris AFP in Spanish 2008 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (AFP) -- As of this afternoon, there had been no official reaction or confirmation about an alleged Sandinist raid into southern Honduras. U.S. State Department spokesmen in Washington had reported the alleged raid.

As of noon today, official sources in Tegucigalpa had not made any statements regarding the raid. Army public relations sources consulted this afternoon refused to comment on the matter, claiming that the military personnel responsible for this type of information were busy at "meetings."

In Nicaragua, the government radio station labeled the Washington report as a "maneuver" by the Reagan administration to obtain approval of the $100 million aid to the contras. Meanwhile, according to reports by the townspeople, there is a tense situation in communities in the eastern Department of El Paraiso on the Nicaraguan border because of the presence of anti-Sandinist guerrillas.

Major Jorge Aurguello, director of the Army's Public Relations office, told AFP yesterday that "there is no state of alert," denying reports to that effect.

Government Views U.S. Charge

PA242209 Paris AFP in Spanish 2137 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The Honduran Government expressed the opinion today that the charge by the Reagan administration about an incursion by 1,000 Sandinist troops in Honduras "is part of the campaign to secure approval of aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries." Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the government house, when consulted by AFP, said that "we have no knowledge of this [incursion] and had it been known the Foreign Secretariat would have already protested."

The charge of the alleged incursion by the Sandinist Army was made by the White House after the lightning visit by Elliott Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, to Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador, which went unnoticed in this capital. Quezada said that "if there had been such an incursion it would have been repelled by the Armed Forces, as guarantors of our sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"Honduras cannot permit such an action without receiving an adequate response," the press secretary noted. The official said that Washington's charge "is part of the publicity campaign by the Reagan administration to secure approval of the $100 million for the counterrevolution." However, he recognized that this matter "involves us and forcibly it has to be so."

Meanwhile, newspaper sources conformed that approximately 4,000 anti-Sandinist insurgents established camps in the past few days in the sector of Capire in the eastern Department of El Paraiso, 15 km from the border with Nicaragua. A camp commander identified as "Johnnie," said that "we have retreated for lack of food, but we have never lacked rifles, ammunition, clothes, or uniforms."

He said that despite the rejection of the supply of aid by the U.S. Congress, "we have enough moral capacity to continue our liberation struggle."

"We must consider that we not only have the aid of the U.S. Government, but we also have the support of the right-wing [de derecho] countries and all the democratic countries are giving us the necessary aid to continue our struggle," he stated.

Nicaraguan Minister on Charge

PA250356 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0115 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Telephone interview with Manuel Espinoza Henrique, Nicaraguan information and press director of the Presidency, with several Honduran reporters and moderator Marco Antonio Mejia — live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Espinoza] ...that the charge is being made by the White House. This clearly proves the intentions behind the charge; the intention being to create problems between Honduras and Nicaragua, between the Governments of Honduras and Nicaragua, between the peoples of Honduras and Nicaragua, and to campaign in favor of President Reagan's incredible attitude.

[Mejia] Minister Espinoza, we have just begun a live transmission of your statements. I would like you to repeat the answer to my previous question regarding the fact that the EPS is carrying out a counterinsurgency operation and whether, by mistake, the EPS soldiers could have crossed into our territory.

[Espinoza] I was telling you that in the past few days EPS has been carrying out an offensive that has already resulted in more than 100 casualties for the mercenary forces of the counterrevolution in the northern areas of Nicaragua, in the Departments of Madriz, Nueva Segovia, and Esteli. Regarding the possibility that EPS soldiers have crossed into Honduran territory, well I do not see this as being possible because the places where these clashes have taken place are not on the border itself. As I also said earlier, we can strongly deny that EPS soldiers have crossed into Honduran territory. This is nothing more than part of the propaganda campaign unleashed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration to get the U.S. Congress to approve the $100 million to finance death, destruction, and terrorism in Nicaragua.

I would also like to tell you that it seems incredible, and this proves that what we are saying is true, that the charge regarding the alleged crossing of EPS soldiers into Honduras is being made by the White House and denied by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat and Honduran Armed Forces' spokesmen. This only proves the intentions behind this charge. The intentions behind this charge are to cause a rift, cause incidents between our peoples and governments, and campaign for the President's position to finance the counterrevolution, to finance death and destruction in our country.

However, all this that has been built on lies is beginning to crumble. You know very well that only a few days ago President Reagan said that Argentine, Brazilian, and Uruguayan guerrillas were training in Nicaragua. The governments of those countries have denied these lies and have even asked President Reagan and the U.S. Government to correct those lies. The same thing is going to happen in this case. Your own Foreign Secretariat and Armed Forces have denied what the White House said this morning.

[Mejia] Minister Espinoza, reporter Jose Emilio Soriano wishes to ask you a question.

At this moment he is at the Presidential Palace. Come in, Jose Emilio.

[Soriano] Thank you, Marco Antonio. Good evening, Minister Espinoza; I am responsible for covering the news at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa. Before I ask my question, I wish to tell you that Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo has said that this new government, which has just taken over beneath a glimmer of a great democracy that is being strengthened in this country, will not lend itself to any kind of abuse against the free determination of the peoples. The president of the Republic has used special phrases to state that: Because of this respect for the free determination of the peoples, the people and Government of Honduras will only be ready to defend their sovereignty, and we do not think you will harm it. What are your views regarding the pacifist position of a young government in Honduras that is trying to maintain peace through dialogue and not by practicing an arms race? I would appreciate your answer. Thank you.

[Espinoza] In practice, the Nicaraguan Government has shown that it is a believer and firm defendor of a position of peace and is willing to search for this peace, that it wants normal relations among governments and peoples, and that this should be done through dialogue, through talks and political solutions. We are very pleased and very happy to see that this is a feeling that is being strengthened in Latin America, and especially in Central America, against those who are trying to resolve the problems by means of pressure, force, and war.

[Mejia] Minister Espinoza, another of our reporters who is at the Presidential Palace at this moment would like to ask you a question. Please ask your question, Julio Armando Valdez.

[Valdez] Mr Minister, if the Honduran Government maintains its position of nonintervention and self-determination of the people, will your government accept the recommendations made by the four governments of the Central American region and accept the initiative presented by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte in an effort to maintain peace and tranquillity in the area? Would you be willing to negotiate and hold a dialogue with the anti-Sandinists in Nicaragua?

[Espinoza] Yes, our president, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, has said that he is willing to negotiate with the leader of the counterrevolution, the leader being U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, I told you a few minutes ago that the alleged raids by the EPS in Honduran territory have even been reported by people coming from Las Trojes in the country's eastern area. It has also been reported that the EPS has built a landing strip. What can you tell us about this?

[Espinoza] A few months ago, I talked to the friendly HRN [call letters for Voz de Honduras radio] reporters and said that many times the people hear campaigning sectors speak about this. As a result, the people relate any event to what they have been told will happen. As you know, this is the area where the counterrevolutionaries' mercenary forces regroup and hide after they are hit by our Armed Forces, combatants, and peasants' militias. At such times, they regroup and try to flee the EPS offensive. This is where these forces cause problems. The Honduran press, radio, and television have reported these forces' outrages against the region's peaceful and honest Honduran citizens. We believe that it is the counterrevolutionary forces that cause problems in the region.

[Mejia] Comrade Jose Emilio Soriano will now ask a question from the Presidential Palace. Come in, Jose Emilio.

[Soriano] Thanks, Marco Antonio.

Mr Minister, another short question. Would the Nicaraguan president meet with the Honduran president during either the Costa Rican president's inauguration or the great summit meeting of the Central American area? Would your government be willing to hold a dialogue with President Azcona regarding the most important results of the Contadora Group negotiations? The two presidents are in the eye of the hurricane, so to speak. Is there a complete willingness for dialogue? Is it not possible to think, with due respect, that you Nicaraguans have initiated a huge arms race that threatens us in the area?

[Espinoza] This idea of an arms race is part of the propaganda drive against the Nicaraguan Government and the Sandinist revolution. One thing is for certain -- and I am glad that you stress this -- and this is that the Nicaraguan Government has been willing to talk and hold a dialogue to return our relations to normal and develop them. When you mention the Esquipulas meeting, our response is positive. As soon as it is necessary, when President Azcona, the Costa Rican president, or even the Guatemalan President wish, we and our government are willing to get in touch, talk, and hold a dialogue at whatever level it is deemed necessary. This has happened in the past. We have been talking about the border line. In the past we visited Honduran territory and also political and Armed Forces leaders have come to Nicaragua. Why could this not happen now? This is the formula.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, you said a few moments ago that this idea of an arms race is part of the U.S. Government propaganda. Yet, isn't it true that currently Nicaragua has more men under arms than all of the Central American armies put together?

[Espinoza] Yes, but keep in mind that Nicaragua suffers a war of aggression. $100 million in aid has been under discussion in the U.S. Congress for this war against the Nicaraguan people. What the Nicaraguan people have been doing is to defend themselves. Nicaraguans want to work in peace and produce the goods that the people need. War has been imposed on the Nicaraguan people by the U.S. Administration.

[Mejia] Comrade Soriano has another question. Come in, Jose Emilio.

[Soriano] Thanks. Mr Minister, I have another question. I have confirmed that, under the pretext of pursuing counterrevolutionaries, many of your forces have entered Honduran territory, of which I can mention some examples, such as San Marcos de Colon in our country's south and Nicaragua's north, Madriz Department in your country, and Choluteca Department in our country, where Sandinist troops have arrived pursuing some anti-Sandinists who have fled to Honduras. These Nicaraguan troops often outrage the Honduran people. Don't you think this is a flagrant violation of our country's sovereignty, Mr Minister?

[Espinoza] May I tell you this? Some penetration by our forces may have occurred by mistake, as one of the comrades said a few minutes ago. This, however, has not been intentional. We want to live in peace and work. In view of the aggression, we are determined to win and defeat the aggression and put an end to this evil.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, Comrade reporter Jose Rolando Sarmiento wants to ask a question. You are on, Sarmiento.

[Sarmiento] Mr Minister, today and in the past we have heard your statements from Nicaragua whenever this station has called. These calls were made when matters that affected our national security and territorial integrity occurred, such as attacks from Nicaragua against Honduran sovereign territory. Mr Minister, what can you tell us about mines being placed in Honduran territory by EPS soldiers? These mines have already caused the death of several Honduran citizens. What can you tell us of the shellings with the Soviet-made Katyusha multiple rockets, the BM-21 125-mm rockets, against Honduran territory? Some of these rockets have landed 12 and 15 km inside Honduran territory. What can you say about these attacks against Honduras from Nicaragua, attacks that kill and harm Honduran citizens?

[Espinoza] Who can prove that those mines were planted by EPS soldiers? Who can say that those mines were not planted by the mercenaries of the counterrevolution? Also, I wish to tell you that what you are stating has not been denounced by the Honduran authorities. It has not been denounced by the Honduran Armed Forces or the Honduran Foreign Secretariat. These are only rumors. I do not mean to say that the rockets did not land there, but, can you prove that those rockets were launched by the EPS? Can you prove that it was an aggressive action on the part of the EPS? I can assure you that it is not so.

[Mejia] Minister Espinoza, Comrade Julio Armando Valdez from the Presidential Palace has another question for you.

[Valdez] Thank you. Mr Minister, you said that if you were to negotiate it would have to be with President Reagan. Don't you think that the anti-Sandinist front formed by Nicaraguan Opposition Unity [UNO], ARDE, and the FDN are also important? Does this mean that the Nicaraguan Government is not interested in negotiating with the guerrillas within Nicaragua and that it will not accept the initiative presented by the the four presidents of the Central American area?

[Espinoza] There is no guerrilla warfare with Nicaragua. We have said that the Nicaraguan Government, the Nicarguan president, is willing to sit down and talk, negotiate, with the leader of the counterrevolution, because the leader of the counterrevolution is the President of the United States. All you have to do is look around and see the huge campaign that the U.S. President has unleashed to get the aid for the counterrevolutionary forces. The man that gives the money, issues the orders, directs, finances, and who is speaking about sending military advisers to Honduras to train the counterrevolutionaries is none other than the President of the United States, the leader of the counterrevolution. Then why should we talk with other people? We must talk to the leader and resolve this situation.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, we are abusing a bit of your time; however, the truth is that we wish to decrease the tensions apparently being experienced by these two brother countries that have an identical ideology, idiosyncracies, and probably the same future. A few moments ago you said there are no guerrillas in Nicaragua, but later you said that approximately 100 Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries had been killed.

[Espinoza] Corect. That is so. However, these forces come from Honduran territory and enter Nicaragua, to then return to create the problems we have been talking about. These are not forces that remain in Nicaragua, they are forces that clash with the EPS and the popular fighters and then withdraw to cause the problems we have been talking about. When Sandinist troops are mentioned, they are really referring to counterrevolutionary forces that flee and enter Honduras to create problems.

[Mejia] Then in your opinion, at this time there are no guerrillas in Nicaraguan territory, but what, then, happens to the ARDE forces who are allegedly in the southern part of Nicaragua?

[Espinoza] There is none of them there.

[Nejia] Then like the FDN they enter from Honduras, just as the ARDE forces enter from Costa Rica?

[Espinoza] You know very well that this is what has been happening. You know very well what they have. The Honduran media have reported the existence of the counterrevolutionary camps in Honduran territory, against the Honduran people's will, against the will of the government, the Armed Forces, and the Honduran people. However, there they are or were.

[Mejia] Comrade Jose Emilio Soriano with another question, Mr Minister.

[Soriano] In response to my previous question, Mr Minister, you said that it had definitely been accepted that the Sandinist troops enter Honduran territory, but that these are mistakes. Do you not believe that it is these colossal mistakes that are creating the conflicts that neither your government nor the Honduran Government need? Do you not believe that it is adventurous for your Army to enter a neighboring country and violate and massacre our people, who have nothing to do with your internal problem with the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries?

[Espinoza] What I believe is that it is truly painful to see so many people dying in Nicaragua and in the zones near the border with Honduras. It is painful to see that in some cases Hondurans suffer the consequences of this when they should not have to. However, what is true, what is an undeniable truth, is that it is incredible that those camps are causing problems. They are in Honduran territory, as I said, against everyone's will, against your will, against the will of your government and Army. This is what is causing the problem, because if the camps did not exist there would be no problem. If those camps did not exist, if those mercenary forces did not mobilize from those camps to Nicaraguan territory and then flee when they clash with our forces and enter Honduran territory to cause problems, we would not be discussing this now.

[Soriano] Finally Mr Minister, in reality -- and I stress it in this question -- does your government have the political will to solve the Central American crisis? At what levels are you willing to talk to all of the sectors seeking a peaceful solution?

[Espinoza] In the past few months there have been very important events, such as the inauguration of President Cerezo in Guatemala and President Azcona in Honduras; I was there, and we will be present at every opportunity where we can establish communication, talk, make proposals, and create peace proposals along with the other Central American brothers. The very fact that I am calling on you demonstrates our desire to declare our willingness to walk together on the civilized path of dialogue and communication.

[Mejia] [Question indistinct]

[Espinoza] We should not allow ourselves to be caught by provocations. When there is talk of the presence of our forces in Honduran territory, it is an effort to alienate us, to confront us and alienate us, to create problems among us, as a basis for a campaign in favor of the $100 million for the counterrevolutionaries, using us, using the Nicaraguans and Hondurans. We must not fall into this trap. Furthermore, we should remember that if there are problems it is due to the presence of the counterrevolutionary mercenary forces in the region.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, your public appearance on HRN has undoubtedly aroused the interest of our fellow reporters. Reporter Irma Santos has the following question.

[Santos] Mr Minister, when you confirm that there are contras in Honduras, you are attacking us. I want to ask you, upon what basis do you and your government state that there really are contras in Honduran territory? Please answer this.

[Espinoza] I have not said this. The Honduran reporters have said this themselves. It has been said on Honduran television, in Honduran newspapers, and radio stations. I base my comments on this information.

[Mejia] Another question by Comrade Julio Armando Valdez, Mr Minister.

[Valdes] Mr Minister, Nicaragua has been described by international politicians as a platform of victory in the Central American region, as a platform of victory for the Soviet Union and Cuba. It is upon this basis that [Mu'ammar] Al-Qadhdhafi has helped you acquire arms to maintain unrest in the Central American region. This is the criteria of some distinguished politicians of Latin and Central America as well as throughout the world.

[Espinoza] No. This is not said by serious and distinguished politicians. President Reagan said it in his speech, campaigning to attack Nicaragua. However, if you listen to worldwide leaders of established prestige and respect, you will not hear this type of statement. You will hear calls for respect for self-determination, for the right to self-determination, calls to seek a political solution through dialogue and conversation, calls to support the Contadora effort. No, those statements are not made by serious politicians.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, how do you explain that subversives who have entered our country after being captured have said that they were trained in Nicaraguan territory or that through Nicaragua they travelled to Cuba?

[Espinoza] In reality, I have not heard that type of statement. I certainly have not heard them. All I can say is that it is part of the campaign. In Nicaragua there are no training camps that create problems. We respect self-determination. This is why we [word indistinct] the political activities in our neighboring countries. It would not be possible for us to [word indistinct] and at the same time train people who are against our government. That would be absurd.

[Mejia] Comrade Jose Emilio Soriano and Julio Armando Valdes have questions for you. They are at the presidential house. Jose Emilio Soriano; go ahead, Jose Emilio.

[Soriano] Thank you. Mr Minister, again, approximately 2 weeks ago the Honduran Army discovered a large quantity of arms in Intibuca Department on the border with El Salvador. The people transporting these arms said that they were from Nicaragua. How can you explain your flagrant violation of our sovereignty and your use of our territory to transfer arms to El Salvador, to the guerrillas, when there are reports by the Honduran Army -- the professional Army of this country -- that demonstrated this? Today, here in the capital city in a neighborhood called (Las Fosas), a large quantity of arms from Nicaragua was discovered. They were brought here to subvert order in this country and to socially subvert this country. These reports have already been confirmed by our state security forces, reports to the effect that the arms are from Nicaragua and financed by Nicaragua. Do you not believe, Mr Minister, that in your large-scale, warmongering campaign, you are also flagrantly violating our country? Can you answer this when we have proof of it? If you buy Honduran newspapers tomorrow you will see the photographs. Thank you, Mr Minister, for your answer.

[Espinoza] I believe that when I initiated this dialogue with the comrade reporters from HRN it was not my intention or their intention to incite problems, or, as it is popularly said, to add fuel to the fire. I can only say that with all of the control measures in the Fonseca Gulf -- you know that there are U.S. ships and bases there to control what they call the arms traffic for the Salvadoran guerrillas -- and with those measures I do not see how we could do this. We would have to have highly developed skills to do this. I believe that many times we are blamed for things that are really incredible. I believe that if we really want to find a solution to the Central American problems, a solution for our countries' problems, we must seek solutions that will allow us to work, and in order for our people and countries to progress we must believe in one another, in what we say to one another.

We must try to walk on a constructive path. If we continue to add fuel to the fire we will not achieve this.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, logically, we realize that you have been very kind to appear on this broadcast. Our two countries are brotherly countries, and you and I are Central American brothers. We appreciate the fact that you have answered our questions in this constructive dialogue. With due respect, we wish to tell you, Mr Minister, that at no time have we thought of assaulting you verbally in any way. We simply want to obtain some answers from official sources like you.

To conclude, Mr Minister, I want to ask you a question on the side. Mr Minister, I deeply believe in God. I was a seminarian for several years and, since I believe in God, I have been deeply concerned over the persecution of the Catholic Church and the current persecution of Cardinal Obando y Bravo, who has been the subject of harsh accusations. It has even been said that it was because of a Vatican policy that he was turned into a new prince of the Catholic Church. We have learned from statements by Cardinal Obando y Bravo that the church is being persecuted and that even his own telephone calls have been tapped. Since this is unrelated to what we were discussing at first, I would appreciate it if you would also answer my question on the side. Why is the Catholic Church being persecuted, since it sets the moral rules for a people to live in peace?

[Espinoza] Well, as you say, we can say that the vast majority of us Nicaraguans are Catholics or believers. You know very well that what is happening in regard to Cardinal Obando y Bravo is not exactly religious persecution. He has a given political attitude, and he is finding an answer regarding that political attitude. However, it is in view of his political attitude, not in view of his attitude as a Catholic pastor. The majority of the Nicaraguan people are Catholics. There are also important sectors that belong to various Protestant faiths. The majority of the Nicaraguan people profess some belief. Therefore, our government and our revolution would be ill-advised to persecute religion.

What is involved here is a confrontation of a political type. It is between Cardinal Obando y Bravo and some priests against other priests. However, it is absolutely false that there is political [as heard] persecution here.

[Mejia] Thank you, Mr Minister. We continue taking undue advantage of your patience and your public appearance through HRN. Comrade Julio Armando Valdez wants to ask you a question. Go ahead, Julio Armando.

[Valdez] Mr Minister, since you say that the UNO, ARDE, and FDN do not exist, who can be blamed for the large number of Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras who are causing it social problems? Would you be in a position to admit this large number of refugees in order for the Honduran Government to send them back to Nicaragua? Is there this social capability there?

[Espinoza] Yes. Our government has urged Nicaraguans to return to their homeland. In fact, the Nicaraguan Government has enacted an amnesty law that covers even the people who have been fighting against the Nicaraguan people. Hundreds of peasants, of Nicaraguans, have taken shelter under that law and are now in Nicaragua quietly working in their communities together with their families. According to our promises, they have not been harassed.

Therefore, if we are doing this with those who have belonged to the counterrevolutionary forces, how could we fail to do this with sectors of the Nicaraguan population which, because of a given circumstance, have fled and have had to take refuge in Honduras? Indeed, our government and our people would welcome these brothers with open arms.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, Comrade Juan Antonio Moncada of our production department will ask the next question. Go ahead.

[Moncada] Thank you very much, Mr Minister. Good evening. We are, or rather I am, very interested in knowing the real policy your country pursues. Some say it is Marxist-Leninist; others say it is Marxist-communist. Mr Minister, what political ideology is your country actually pursuing?

[Mejia] Hello, go ahead. Go ahead, Mr Minister.

[Espinoza] I cannot hear you. I did not hear any of what you said you were going to ask.

[Mejia] Yes. Comrade Juan Antonio Moncada was asking you what the ideology of the Sandinist government is.

[Espinoza] Well, our ideology is based on the Sandinist principles. Our revolution has said this clearly. It seeks self-determination for our country. We have a clear-cut system of political pluralism, mixed economy, and nonalignment. This can help you find a definition of our [word indistinct].

[Moncada] However, at present the Nicaraguan Government would be virtually aligning itself with what is known as Marxism-Leninism, and we are asking this question to comply with the wish of one of our listeners, who called HRN on another telephone. Is this true?

[Espinoza] No. We form part of the Nonaligned Movement, which, as a matter of fact, does not adhere to any given position like the one you are mentioning.

[Mejia] You said a few minutes ago that the Nicaraguan Government would be willing to receive all Nicaraguan refugees on Honduran territory and that it would receive the refugees who have fled to our territory because of a given circumstance. What is that circumstance?

[Espinoza] The circumstance is the war, the war that is being provoked.

[Mejia] Therefore, there is indeed a war in Nicaragua?

[Espinoza] There is an aggression. The U.S. President is at this moment asking for an additional $100 million for the aggression. Don't you think it would be wonderful if this $100 million were given to you to build schools, to purchase fertilizer, or to build roads in Honduras?

[Mejia] But who are fighting -- the Americans or Nicaraguans?

[Espinoza] They are giving that [aid] to mercenary forces made up by former Somozist guards.

[Question] But we understand that some of the top commanders of the FDN are Nicaraguans.

[Espinoza] Most of them are Somozist guards who were defeated by the people's struggle in 1979.

[Mejia] Finally, one last question by Julio Armando Valdez.

[Valdez] Mr Minister, Eden Pastora -- was he a Somozist when he was fighting alongside you? How do you view the attitude assumed by Eden Pastora?

[Espinoza] Well, Eden Pastora is now also linked with President Reagan's request. That is his position.

[Valdez] Do you have anything else to add?

[Espinoza] No. Only to thank you for the opportunity to talk to a group of reporters, and also that the people of Honduras can be aware of what the message of peace and goodwill is from the Nicaraguan Government.

[Mejia] That was Nicaraguan Information Minister Manuel Espinoza Henriquez. Thank you, Mr Minister.

Emergency Security Council Meeting

PA250156 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0153 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By German Reyes]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- President Jose Azcona Hoyo called an emergency meeting of the National Security Council this afternoon to discuss an alleged incursion by over 1,000 Sandinist soldiers into Honduran territory.

Minutes beofre entering the meeting, which is being held at the presidential house, Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras said that the Armed Forces have not reported any attack to him and that, if the charge raised in Washington is true, the government would lodge "a strong protest with the Nicaraguan Government."

Armed Forces Chief General Humberto Regalado Hernandez and the commanders of the four Armed Forces branches -- Army, Air Force, Police, and Naval Force -- are also present at the meeting.

The U.S. President was informed today about an alleged "aggression" against Honduras by over 1,000 Nicaraguan soldiers yesterday, Sunday. Today, no military or government source had any knowledge about the alleged attack. All the Honduran authorities know is what was learned today through the reports from Washington.

Lopez Contreras said that the Honduran people must not be alarmed because there is nothing official on the alleged attacks by Nicaragua. The alleged presence of Nicaraguan rebels on Honduran territory has given rise to several clashes at the border between the two countries.

Last week it was learned that Honduras had sent military reinforcements to the border with Nicaragua in view of the announcement of troop deployments in the same area by that neighboring country. The government is expected to release a report on the situation at the border area tonight.

Armed Forces Deny Knowledge

PA250522 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0500 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] We have the following news dispatch. Your close attention to the following cabled report from Tegucigalpa. It says:

The Honduran Armed Forces said today that they know nothing about reports of an alleged incursion by Nicaraguan troops into Honduran territory, which was reported in Washington by an official who did not say how he obtained the report. Major Jorge Alberto Arguello, Honduran Armed Forces spokesman, asserted that there is nothing official about an assertion that Sandinist troops crossed the Honduran border. In Managua, the Defense Ministry denied the report, indicating that the Nicaraguan troops are continuing with their operation to pursue the rebels in northern Nicaragua.

Government Denies Incursion

PA250536 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0513 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By German Reyes]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government has denied an alleged "aggression" by more than 1,000 Sandinist troops who reportedly entered this territory last Sunday. The Honduran Armed Forces informed President Jose Azcona Hoyo tonight that it had no information from the border with Nicaragua about an alleged aggression, reported in Washington today.

Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the Honduran Government, said that there is no official information in that regard and that, consequently, it was "speculation." Had more than 1,000 Nicaraguan troops penetrated Honduran territory, "we would be at war because our Armed Forces are ready to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity," the official added.

In view of reports from Washington today, President Azcona Hoyo convoked the National Security Council to an emergency session. Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras and members of the Armed Forces explained to the president there is no information about the entry of Sandinist troops into Honduran territory. The Honduran Foreign Secretariat will make an announcement tomorrow in that respect, it was reported at the presidential house tonight.

The government press secretary said that it was a strategy by the U.S. Government so that the U.S. people will support the $100 million in aid that President Ronald Reagan requested from the Congress to help the rebels fighting against the government of Nicaragua. Lisandro Quezada added that President Azcona reiterated at the Security Council session that Honduras will never attack any country and that it will always seek peaceful means to resolve any difference. The report that Honduras had been attacked by Nicaragua yesterday fell like a "pail of cold water" on several sectors of this country.

Some believed that fierce fighting was under way in the border zone, but apparently everything has been a false alarm provoked at the White House in Washington. Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, informed President Ronald Reagan about an alleged military aggression by Nicaragua against this country.

Abrams also informed Reagan today about his "mysterious" visit to El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica the past weekend. The U.S. official's visit was not announced by the Honduran Government or by the U.S. Embassy accredited in Tegucigalpa.

According to Abrams' report to Reagan, in El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica there is "concern and a high level of expectation over the rejection by the U.S. Congress of the approval of aid to the anti-Sandinist rebels."

The Honduran Government considers that whether or not the aid to the "contras" is approved is a private matter of the United States. President Azcona Hoyo has also said that Honduras will not lend its territory to attack other nations.

NICARAGUA

U.S.-LIBYAN CLASH IN MEDITERRANEAN REPORTED

PA250203 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] White House spokesman Larry Speakes this afternoon confirmed that U.S. 6th Fleet aircraft attacked Libyan military positions in Sirte. The 6th Fleet has been carrying out military exercises in Libyan territorial waters [words indistinct].

It was reported in London tonight that, according to the Libyan television service, three aircraft from the 6th Fleet carriers in Libyan territorial waters have been shot down. Meanwhile, in Washington, the Pentagon said it had been informed that Libyan defense forces fired an antiaircraft missile against 6th Fleet aircraft that flew over Libyan territorial waters. The Pentagon officials, however, have said they await more information from the 6th Fleet ships participating in military exercises in Libyan territorial waters. U.S. radio and television networks regarded the report of these military actions as very serious and interrupted their regular broadcasts to expand on the reports.

This afternoon the U.S. Government said that it reserves the right to take (actions) against Libya [words indistinct] armed aggression against its territory by 6th Fleet aircraft. Speakes has said that the Reagan government could not describe the current situation as one of war against Libya. He said, however, that any Libyan aircraft approaching U.S. warships would be regarded as an enemy. Using the typical language of imperialists used to trampling over the (?desires) of the world's poor peoples, Speakes indicated that the United States cannot consent to other countries telling it what to do.

HONDURAS' PAZ BARNICA CALLED 'LIAR, CYNICAL'

PA202015 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Former Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has just realized that the contras are operating from Honduras against Nicaragua. Paz Barnica's remarks, which show him as a man without morals and a coward, appeared in the Honduran newspaper EL HERALDO.

Paz Barnica openly admits, but not until now, that the Somozists have committed horrible crimes in eastern and southern Honduras. Mr Paz Barnica never dared make such a statement when he was the Honduran foreign secretary, and thus now he has shown himself to the Honduran people as a liar and a cynical politician who played into the hands of the aggressors of the Central American people who are none other than the imperialists of the Reagan government. This is the democracy that the Honduran Government's media keeps proclaiming.

MINISTRY CONDEMNS U.S. 'PROVOCATION' IN LIBYA

FL251154 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Three U.S. fighter planes were shot down and two Libyan ships sunk in incidents in the Gulf of Sidra, which is claimed by the North African country as part of its territorial waters. This information was confirmed by the Libyan news agency, while diplomatic sources in Tripoli say that U.S. Sixth Fleet units holding military maneuvers in the Mediterranean bombed Libyan rocket installations near the gulf coast.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry has criticized the United States for once again conducting aggressive acts against the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah with provocative air-naval maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra and sinking Libyan naval units 15,000 km away from U.S. territory. A ministry note reiterates the Cuban Government's and peoples' support for Libya and calls on the international community to express their most definite repudiation of such an contemptible provocation by U.S. imperialism.

U.S. 'PRESSURED' NATO ALLIES IN BAVARIA ON SDI

FL220134 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] During the meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group, which has ended in Bavaria, the United States futilely pressured its NATO allies to support the U.S. plan to militarize space. Press reports affirm that the steps that Washington took were fruitless; only Great Britain still unconditionally supports the so-called U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative [SDI], also known as "star wars."

Representatives of only 11 of the 16 countries that belong to NATO participated in the meeting.

CASTRO SPEAKS TO NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM MEETING

FL221234 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, spoke last night at the closing session of the annual meeting to review the national health system in Havana. The highest leader of the revolution referred to the family doctor plan and was especially interested in the program's development in mountain areas in the eastern provinces, the population's response, and the program's results.

Castro also spoke about remodeling several Havana city hospitals, which will allow a substantial increase in the number of beds for better service to the population. During the meeting, it was reported that Cuba has 1 doctor for every 443 residents and 1 dentist for every 264 residents.

CARICOM DEFENDS GUYANA AGAINST FRENCH, BRITISH

FL241914 Bridgetown CANA in English 1903 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 24, CANA -- Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St John says member nations of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) will not allow the economy of sister state Guyana to suffer as a result of pressures mounted by extraneous powers. The viewpoint of the Caribbean is that you cannot spite Guyana if you genuinely wish to assist Caribbean nations to develop their economies, St John, the incumbent Caricom chairman, was quoted as saying in an interview in the laest issue of the CARIBBEAN TIMES newspaper. He said Caricom governments objected to moves by France and Britain to block Guyana from benefitting from further aid through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) because of the inability of the Georgetown Government to make repayments on loans due to the Barbados-based lending agency.

France and Britain are contributors to the CDB. Guyana has been barred from receiving further loans from the CDB for about two years, and the government was unsuccessful in seeking a waiver last year.

We object to the French and British Governments' interference and we, as regional leaders and members of Caricom, must sue our lobbying power with the Americans and the Canadians and let them be aware of the unity that we share as Caribbean people, St John said. If they wish to help the Caribbean, they must help Guyana.

St John's inteview was the highlight of a 24-page supplement on Barbados by CARIBBEAN TIMES, a radical weekly catering to the West Indian community here.

St John said Caricom go meet Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte on the St Vincent-administered resort island of Mustique two months ago, said he felt the Guyanese leader was making a conscious effort to revive the country's crisis-hit, state-dominated economy. [sentence as received] The informal meeting took place as Guyana faced mounting criticism within the region of alleged human rights abuses, linked to opposition claims that last December's elections were rigged. St John said while there had been some improvement in Guyana as a result of moves by the government to free up the economy to allow more private sector involvement, Guyana neeeded to build up its image abroad if it is to generate interest for investors. ... There is hope that in the not too distant future, Guyana's economy will improve and that country would be a great contributor to the prosperity of the Caribbean people in general, he said.

With regard to Guyana's controversial electoral system, St John said the abolition of overseas voting and other reforms gave some ground for hope. We can only hope a solution will be found whereby confidence in the election machinery will be shared by both the government and the people in opposition, he said.

BAHAMAS

TAX STRUCTURE WILL NOT CHANGE FOR CBI

FL241454 Bridgetown CANA in English 1642 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Nassau, Bahamas, March 23, CANA -- The Bahamas does not intend to change its tax structure or alter its banking privacy laws to satisfy the United States statutory requirements under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, according to Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling.

Addressing the seventh annual Bahamas International Financial Conference here, the prime minister said, however, the government would continue to explore ways to discourage and prevent criminal elements from successfully making use of the state's financial institutions. He asserted that the object and scope of the exchange of information was an incompatible point from which negotiations between the United States and the Bahamas might be started.

Pindling, who is also minister of finance, said the stipulation for over-riding bank privacy laws and subjecting third country nationals to the requirements of the agreement were most objectionable as compliance in this area would remove utterly the rationale and appeal of the Bahamas as a financial centre to non-United States residents and nationals. We continue to rely on the banking community here to make sure that we are aware of the adequacy and competitiveness of our arrangements, the Bahamian leader remarked. The systems must at all times be responsive to the stimuli for change. In addition to the newer developments, some of the old issues are still with us, e.g., our efforts continue unabated to preserve the requisite privacy of banking business by striking the appropriate balance between banking confidentiality and legitimate efforts to prevent its use for criminal purpose, Pindling said.

The prime minister: ... The Bahamas was always agreeable to co-operate with other governments to consider ways of curbing criminal activities through the use of the Bahama's financial system. In this connection therefore, I am able to report that representatives of the Bahamas Government and the Government of the United States have completed negotiations and have agreed in principal on the provision for a mutual legal assistance treaty in criminal matters which we expect both governments to agree to and conclude this year.

DOMINICA

DOMINICA, FRANCE AGREE ON MARTINIQUE BOUNDARY

FL241932 Bridgetown CANA in English 1924 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 24, CANA -- Dominica and France have agreed on the definition of the maritime boundaries separating Dominica from the French Caribbean island of Martinique after four years of negotiations. The agreement followed talks in Guadeloupe last week between a Dominican delegation led by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and French officials led by Juridical Adviser in the Foreign Ministry Gilbert Guillaume.

A communique issued after the meeting said that the final documents would be signed shortly when it is expected that a fisheries agreement between Dominica and the European community would be concluded. The fisheries agreement, which was also looked at during last week's meeting, is to regulate fishing between Dominica and EC vessels in the waters of Dominica and the French Caribbean islands of Martinique to the south and Guadeloupe to the north.

HAITI

DEMONSTRATORS CALL FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT

FL241946 Bridgetown CANA in English 1938 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, March 24, CANA-Reuter -- Thousands of chanting Haitians marched peacefully through the capital streets to the national palace today demanding establishment of a civilian government.

Go away CNG [National Government Council], get out Namphy, the marchers shouted in Creole, referring to the ruling Conseil National de Gouvernement and its president Lieutenant General Henri Namphy. Calls for a general strike in the nation today, however, did not materialize following an outbreak of street violence and police retaliation last week, though managers of some smaller plants in the city reported some worker absenteeism.

The CNG, which Namphy realigned last Friday in the face of public protests, has been running the beleagured Caribbean nation since February 7 when President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled to France.

Today's march — which attracted up to 15,000 people over three hours -- was organized by a newly-formed group called the Committee to Ignite Democracy (KID), led by nine journalists, students, and young churchmen.

Most schools opened on schedule this morning despite broadcast appeals for a boycott. Many suspended clases after two hours, however, and the teenage students in multi-coloured uniforms joined in the march.

Rumours at the weekend had predicted chaos and disorder in the streets and widespread reports that Namphy would resign. The absence of a general strike appeared to strengthen the new government's hand and one source close to the council said: We're taking this as a good sign. Maybe the people now realize that everything can't be accomplished in six weeks.

A key factor in the failure of the strike call appeared to be a decision last night by transport drivers to keep working and help organize the nation without trouble. That theme was reflected in banners of the marchers, which proclaimed: We didn't come for trouble, we have just come for a demonstration to tell people what we want. There was some apprehension as the march began from inside the Roman Catholic cathedral about a mile from the palace. Vendors sold small limes and lemons to marchers to ward off the sting of expected tear gas attacks. But the mood of the parade was almost festive despite the often harsh and obscene anti-government rhetoric.

Dozens of grim-faced military men stood on the veranda of the mustard-coloured army headquarters as the marchers wound by and headed across a plaza to the palace gates. About two weeks after Duvalier's ouster, troops fired tear gas canisters at demonstrators in front of their headquarters. At times today youths broke from the ranks of the march and shook hands with young soldiers soliciting grins. About 30 heavily-armed troops huddled in the shade of a bouganvilla tree at the north end of the palace. Another 200 members of the presidential guard were deployed in a nearby garden but did not interfere with the march.

The newly-formed group KID was organized over the weekend and one of its principal leaders is Evans Paul, a former Creole radio newsman who went by the name Compere Plume. He went into exile during the Duvalier regime. A KID leaflet distributed today called on Haitians to organize themselves along democratic lines in neighbourhoods, schools, and work in all sectors.

Demands for civilian control of Haiti emerged almost from the moment of Duvalier's ouster after a long and bloody revolt which began in the provincial city of Gonaives last November. Namphy promised open elections shortly after the six-member council was installed. The government sources said the process would take up to 18 months -- and perhaps even longer. That timetable was generally supported by U.S. and other Western diplomats who pointed out that Haiti's most pressing problems were economic and after 28 years of tyrannical Duvalier family rule the nation had no political tradition.

The latest demands for civilian control came last Thursday when Gerald Gourgue, a long time human rights activist, angrily quit the council and charged the leadership with making too slow progress. A day later Namphy stripped three former Duvalier officials from the council. Though he has not declared his candidacy, Gourgue is expected to seek the presidency. In an interview with several western journalists yesterday, he described the Haitian people as angry, embittered, and strongly desirous of action.

CWC URGES RETURN OF EXILES BE EXPEDITED

FL242132 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 24, CANA -- The Curacao-based Caribbean Workers Council (CWC), grouping 23 trade unions throughout the region, today urged Haiti's transitional government to free up the process to permit the speedy return of exiles. CWC General Secretary Paul Tennassee accused the authorities in Port-au-Prince of attempting to control who wanted to come home following the downfall of dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

The junta which is there is giving passports to Haitian exiles, but with the passports you can't enter Haiti, you have to wait and get a visa, he told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA). One Caracas-based exile, George Fortune, who heads the Haitian Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions, which is affiliated to the CWC, had been attempting to get a visa for three weeks, Tennassee said.

The CWC official also urged the government to respect human rights and initiate steps for the election of a democratic government. Describing Haiti as a decapitated society, he said the presence of the overseas-based exiles was essential to the establishment of democracy in Haiti after almost three decades of authoritarian rule by the Duvalier dynasty. He said the CWC, along with a Puerto Rico affiliate, would hold a conference on Haiti in San Juan in June that would bring together regional labour leaders for discussions on the future of the Caribbean nation.

FURTHER CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED 24 MARCH

PA250022 Paris AFP in Spanish 2333 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The Haitian National Government Council (CNG) presided over by General Henri Namphy today readjusted the cabinet, appointing five new ministers, including Jean-Baptiste Hilaire as foreign minister replacing Jacques Francois, who as of Friday was the only civilian in the CNG. A former lieutenant general and chief of the general staff of the Army during the era of Jean-Claude Duvalier, Hilaire is a moderate individual who had struggled against corruption in the military corps, banning high-ranking officers from working in business.

Another new minister, who will be the minister of information and public relations to replace Colonel Max Valles, who resigned from the CNG on Friday, is Colonel Herard Abraham, a former commandant of the Military Academy and known to be one of the more moderate officers of the Haitian Army. Col Abraham was secretary of state for interior and for national defense in the previous cabinet.

As of now, Mario Celestin will be the minister of industry and commerce, a post held up to now by Leonce Thelusma, who had been challenged by the staff of the ministry where he was appointed under the protection of the Army.

Gerard Gourgue, who resigned last Thursday from his dual post of member of the CNG and minister of justice, is now replaced by Francois Latortue.

Gerard Noel will replace Tony Auguste in the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Two new officers now join the Cabinet. They are Colonel Phedre Desir, as secretary of state for defense and interior, and Colonel Fritz Antoine, as secretary of state for justice.

Journalist Aubelin Jolicoeur is leaving his post of director general of tourism to become secretary of state for information and public relations.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

LEFTIST LEADER APPOINTED TO SENATE

FL241536 Bridgetown CANA in English 1513 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 24, CANA -- The national executive of the opposition National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) has ratified the nomination of radical trade unionist George Weekes to fill an opposition senate seat left vacant by the death of Senator Nuevo Diaz, NAR leader A.N.R. Robinson said. It will be the second time that Weekes, veteran leftist leader of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU), will sit in the upper house of the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament.

NAR sources said there had been some contention within the newly-merged four-party organisation over the choice of Weekes. Weekes' nomination came before the national executive at a meeting last Saturday.

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GOVERNMENT TO SAFEGUARD RIGHTS DURING STRIKE

PY250208 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0049 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (TELAM) -- Tomorrow the government will guarantee the constitutional rights to work, petition and move freely throughout the country, and will adopt the necessary measures to safeguard the normal development of all public acts organized by political and labor union organizations.

A communique issued tonight by the Interior Ministry, related to the stoppage of activities organized by the General Labor Confederation [CGT] leadership for tomorrow, adds that the government will also safeguard the tranquillity of all persons that may or may not support the measure of force. Following is the text of the communique:

Regarding the national stoppage declared by the CGT for 25 March, the Interior Ministry hereby addresses the public to point out the following: The government will guarantee all the legitimate mechanisms of the constitutional right to work, petition, and move freely throughout the country. Moreover, it will prove all necessary security measures to safeguard the normal development of all public actions organized by labor union and political organizations as well as the tranquillity of persons that may or may not support the measures of force.

The Interior Ministry hereby expresses its firm determination to take measures so that the various democratic expressions of dissent may be expressed with the support of the norms of coexistence and mutual respect which are supported by the great majority of the citizens. These measures will also keep out those who seek to confuse and distort the legitimate reasons for the stoppage.

Troccoli on Strike Success

PY260125 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2307 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (DYN) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli tonight admitted that the general strike sponsored by the CGT was heeded by at least 55 percent of the workers. Troccoli was asked about the CGT strike and its success during a ceremony in which Facundo Saurez Lastra, under secretary of the interior, was promoted to interior secretary. In this regard Troccoli said that "it was about even," that about 55 percent obeyed the strike and 45 percent did not.

FORCED SAVINGS PAYMENTS TO BEGIN IN APRIL

PY191958 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- Forced savings will be brought forward to next month, the economy ministry announced last night. Payment will now fall due between April 15 and 20 insteal of the end of May as originally scheduled. The official aim of the change is to avoid too many taxes having to be paid in May but sources said that after three consecutive months of deficit the treasury needs new funds to balance its books again. No changes were announced for the second installment of the 1986 quota, which will fall due in October or November.

ADN NOT CONSIDERING BREAKING PACT WITH GOVERNMENT

PY241359 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] leader Guillermo Fortun has stated that ADN President General Hugo Banzer Suarez will arrive in La Paz tomorrow after attending a commemoration of the ADN founding anniversary. Fortun stressed that there are no conflicts within the party and that the statements made by two individuals are only their personal beliefs, not those of the party. Regarding his membership in the party at the same time that he is a director of some state companies, he said that this is possible because of government procedures. However, he said that this does not mean a breakup of the pact between the ADN and the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR].

[Begin recording] Of course this does not mean that the pact for democracy will be broken up, because it is above everything. However, if the party decides that the government is following a line that is not compatible with ours, we would have to order our people to withdraw. This is clearly stated in the document we signed. [end recording]

Fortun also pointed out that after Banzer arrives in La Paz and meets with his party political committee, he will then talk with the media.

[Begin recording] He will remain in La Paz for the next 48 hours, and he will talk with the media after he meets with the party political committee, and of course mainly with Panamericana, which has wide coverage throughout our country. [end recording]

These were comments by ADN leader Guillermo Fortun, who mainly pointed out: If the government's policy is not compatible with that of his party, the ADN will order the withdrawal of its members. He said that this does not mean that the ADN-MNR pact will be broken up. He also reported that ADN President Hugo Banzer will arrive in La Paz either today or tomorrow.

APPOINTMENT OF SENATE PRESIDENT APPROVED

PY260149 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 1

[Excerpt] Yesterday the Senate unanimously elected Oscar Zamora Medinacelli pro tempore president of the National Senate and Ciro Humbordt Barrero as first vice president of this legislative body. The appointment of the president and first vice president of the National Senate is contained in two resolutions that were approved unanimously by the senators present at yesterday's session.

COCAINE SEIZED; 58 TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

PY251815 Paris AFP in Spanish 1424 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 25 Mar (AFP) -- DNCSP [National Directorate for Controlling Dangerous Substances] Regional Director Police Colonel Jaime Barrera today reported that the Leopards, a police unit specializing in the antinarcotics struggle, have seized 107 kg of cocaine, arrested 58 people, and seized 4 vehicles over the past 3 days in the Chapare area, Cochabamba Department, central Bolivia.

The raid led to the arrest of coca leaf treaders (men who trample coca leaves, which are then mixed with other substances), cocaine traffickers, and businessmen involved in drug trafficking.

Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy has announced that the Leopards will attempt to reduce coca cultivation, which is a U.S. Government prerequisite for granting economic assistance to Bolivia.

CONSUL TO CHILE RATIFIED BY PRESIDENT PAZ

PY251825 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] President Victor Paz Estenssoro has ratified his confidence in the newly appointed Bolivian Consul to Chile Jorge Siles Salinas during a meeting at government house this morning. The following is a statement made by Jorge Siles Salinas on leaving government house.

[Begin recording] It has been a pleasant meeting. We talked about the president's speech yesterday in the Plaza Varoa. I told him I agree with the contents of his speech. In turn, the president has expressed his confidence in me and has reiterated that I should count on his support during my mission that will start in Chile next week, where I have been appointed general consul. [end recording]

Siles Salinas did not wish to comment on the maritime subject and its reactions in congress.

CONGRESSMAN CRITICIZES RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CHILE

PY251609 Paris AFP in Spanish 0418 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez was charged today in La Paz with conducting a pro-Pinochet foreign policy during an interpellation in the Chamber of Deputies lodged by Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] Congressman Fernando Salazar Paredes.

Salazar Paredes termed a serious mistake by Bolivian diplomacy the dangerous rapprochment with the Chilean regime, providing some oxygen at a time when it is almost being suffocated by international democratic pressure.

Salazar Paredes criticized President Paz Estenssoro for stating that Bolivian-Chilean ties need a new approach after more than 8 years of severance, which stemmed from General Pinochet's lack of interest in overcoming the problem of Bolivia's geographic enclosure.

Indeed, on 23 March, the country recalled the 107th anniversary of the loss of the Bolivian sea coastline to Chile during a homage paid to Eduardo Ayaroa, the Bolivian hero of the Pacific War.

Foreign Minister Bedregal's interpellation will continue tomorrow, 25 March.

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EXPLAINS REAGAN REMARKS

PY260142 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- Yesterday at a meeting of U.S. Charge d'Affaires Alexander Watson with Itamaraty General Under Secretary for Political Affairs Ronaldo Costa, the U.S. Government verbally presented the explanation requested by the Brazilian Government regarding a statement by President Ronald Reagan that Brazilians are being trained in Nicaragua for guerrilla activities in Brazil.

Neither government wanted to reveal the details of the meeting, but Watson affirmed that "President Reagan never said that Brazilian radicals trained in Nicaragua are returning to Brazil. He only said that there are Brazilian radicals trained there.

According to protocol, the U.S. charge d'affaires should have been received by Itamaraty's Secretary General Paulo de Tarso, who requested the explanation, but he is sick. The fact that the explanation was verbal does not detract from the importance of the explanation. Satisfied with the speed with which the explanation was given, Itamaraty's spokesman Rui Noguera said that "the form of transmitting diplomatic messages is chosen by the sender."

At the next Contadora Group meeting, scheduled for 5-6 April on Contadora, the Panamanian island after which the group is named, Brazil will support the formation of a commission to oversee the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border. According to spokesman Rui Noguera, it is not yet known whether the support will simply be of a formal nature or will imply the sending of Brazilian troops to patrol the region.

In Porto Alegre, the first secretary of the Soviet Union's Embassy in Brasilia, Boris Fessenkco, reacted yesterday to the U.S. denunciation that Nicaragua might be sending arms for the guerrillas in Brazil with an ironic remark: "This is not President Ronald Reagan's first gaffe with Brazilians, whom he once called Bolivians."

Note Released

PY260252 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0056 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 25 Mar (EFE) -- According to the Foreign Ministry, the U.S. Government was unable to specify what relationship there is between Brazilian extremists and the Nicaraguan subversive plans. In a simple note released by the Foreign Ministry today, it is stated that the U.S. Government is unable to specify what type of aid is specifically granted (by Nicaragua) to the Brazilians.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry's message, based on an explanation given by the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, stated that neither Reagan nor U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said or tired to suggest that Brazilian extremists, trained in Nicaragua, are acting in Brazil.

Last week the Foreign Ministry demanded an explanation of Reagan's arguments from the U.S. Embassy. According to the embassy (U.S.), what was meant was that Nicaragua gave extremists of various Latin American countries, including Brazil, military training and forged passports, among other resources. The Foreign Ministry's message states that it has taken due note of the explanations given by the U.S. Embassy with the belief that there will be no further incorrect remarks or misinterpretations.

CARLOS PIZARRO ASSUMES TOP M-19 POSITION

PA241540 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] The leftist M-19 will assume a hard line following the death of its top leader Alvaro Fayad Delgado, who has been replaced by Carlos Pizarro Leongomez (son of a former vice admiral), considered a military strategist, not a politician. During the past few hours the M-19 admitted the death of its Commanding General Alvaro Fayad Delgado on 13 March in the Quinta Paredes neighborhood during a clash with the National Police elite forces.

Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, considered a "hard-line" strategist, has assumed the general command of this rebel movement, which has been active during the past few weeks after breaking peace agreements with President Belisario Betancur's government.

Pizarro Leongomez currently heads the so-called "National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG], an organization composed of the Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT], Free Fatherland, Quintin Lame, Army of National Liberation, Popular Liberation Army (EPL), and the M-19.

The CNG recently faced an internal crisis when the Quintin Lame pro-Indian movement announced its withdrawal due to the bold incursions and the resulting high number of victims and wounded. However, the Quintin Lame decided to withdraw from both the M-19 and from the so-called America Battalion. "We have already withdrawn our fighters from Valle del Cauca and from the ranks of the America Ballation, and we have broadened our political-military actions in Tolima Department, where the Indian population is confronting a difficult situation," Quintin Lame spokesmen recently said.

We have learned that the M-19's leadership will be as follows: commanding general: Carlos Pizarro Leongomez; Central Command: Antonio Navarro Wolff and Gustavo Arias Londono, alias "Boris;" High Command: German Rojas Patino, Marco Chalita, Vera Grave, Pedro Pacheco, Rosemberg Pabon Pabon, Israel Santamaria, and Libardo Parra.

Appointed as members of M-19's National Directorate are: Salvador Herazo, Arjaid Artunduaga, Eduardo Chavez, Afraino Parra, Dario Anay, Rafael Maria Artega Giraldo, Jose Yamel Riano, Gerardo Ardila, Jaime Bermeo, Fernando Sanchez, Otto Felipe, Anibal Gustavo Josue, Filar Arellano, Rafael Veragara, and 15 other unidentified leaders.

POLICE ARREST 37 ALLEGED M-19 GUERRILLAS

PA211941 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 2

[Excerpt] Thirty-seven alleged guerrillas of the leftist M-19, including 12 minors, were captured by the National Police after Eusebio Betancur Parra, the parish priest of the Divino Salvador Church, was forced to celebrate a mass in memory of Alvaro Fayad Delgado, the M-19 chief killed during a clash with police in Bogota.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S.-LIBYAN CONFRONTATION

PY260249 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0222 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Lima, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon said today that Peru is watching the situation created by the armed confrontations between the United States and Libya on the Gulf of Sidra "with concern." The Peruvian foreign minister added that his country was concerned about "the situations of tension affecting international peace and security" which continuously develop in the world.

Wagner Tizon then said that Peru was ready to offer its contribution and opinion at the appropriate forums, especially at the United Nations, in search for a solution to the crisis. The foreign minister then announced that he will travel to Contadora Island, Montevideo, and New Delhi in April.

SHINING PATH PROPAGANDA CHIEF ARRESTED

PY260205 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 15 Mar 86 p 6

[Text] Cesar Ramos Aquije, 38, alias "Camarada Mario," the Shining Path chief of propaganda, who was disguised as a street vendor to hide his real occupation, has been arrested while selling cheap goods in downtown Lima.

Detectives of the Antiterrorist Directorate (Dircote) have been after him for over 1 and 1/2 years, but Ramos was always able to escape because he had several identification cards bearing different names. This allowed him to travel on different occasions to the Departments of Libertad, Ancash, Huanuco, Pasco, Junin, Huancavelica, Ayacucho, and Puno, and other areas to distribute subversive literature.

Ramos Aquije joined Shining Path 6 years ago at the lowest level and was able to climb to the position of Shining Path press and propaganda chief of the Lima Metropolitan Regional Committee. Last year he was "promoted" to national chief of propaganda. Ramos Aquije installed a modern printing shop with two centers of operation. One of the centers was located at the 5-and -1/2-km point of the Carretera Central. It has not yet been established how he was able to finance the printing shop.

The police seized about 30,000 pamphlets entitled "Let Us Develop the Guerrilla War" which is the only Shining Path document. The police also confiscated thousands of posters ready for distribution in several departments where the Shining Path is operating. Ramos Aquije concealed his real identity in the last few years disguised as a poor and inoffensive street vendor who sold cheap jewelry. He frequently used that set-up to check out areas of downtown Lima and especially the area surrounding Government Palace.

NEW TERRORIST GROUP BOMBS APRA OFFICES

PY242258 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1827 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 24 Mar (EFE) -- Presumed subversives this morning attacked five offices of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) party in Lima with incendiary bombs. The mayor's office reported that the attacks caused fires that were subsequently extinguished and did little danage. According to police sources, the attacks were reportedly carried out by a new subversive group calling itself the People's Guerrilla Army [Ejercito Guerrillero Popular].

IGLESIAS ON CONTADORA, TRADE, NATIONAL DEBT

PY232259 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Mar 86 p 8

[By Roger Atwood]

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias recently spoke with the HERALD at his office in Montevideo on a varity of topics, ranging from the Contadora group and prospects for peace in Central America to the outcome of last months' meeting of the Cartagena Consensus in Punta del Este.

He also gave Uruguay's view on CAUCE, the Uruguayan-Argentine trade accord that has come under criticism on this side of the River Plate for giving undue advantages to Uruguay, and the future of Uruguay's five billion (thousand million) dollar foreign debt.

[Atwood] At the meeting of the Contadora group last month, why didn't the foreign ministers decide to install a civilian peace commission on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, as they did for the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border?

[Iglesias] In the first place because Honduras and Nicaragua did not ask for the topic to be discussed. In the case of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the action was taken on a request from both countries. The problems on the two borders are very different, and creating a peace commission on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border must be the end point of a process and not the starting point in a tremendously tense situation. The peace commission (on the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican frontier) is a very important conquest and marks a starting point for concrete, joint actions of the Contadora group that seem to me highly effective.

[Atwood] What will happen to Contadora's peace efforts if the United States Congress approves President Ronald Reagan's proposal for 100 million dollars for the contras?

[Iglesias] I don't like to write history beforehand. I think we're going to see how circumstances develop, and the Contadora Group will analyze them and, on the basis of them, make decisions. But it would be a bit premature of me to anticipate actions that are changing from day to day and that depend on the circumstances which gave rise to them.

[Atwood] But what can the United States do to help the peace process in Central America?

[Iglesias] What we said in Caraballeda (where the Contadora group met late last year) is that all interested parties, not just the U.S. but also Nicaragua and other parties, begin progress on a series of simultaneous signs that allow us to foster reciprocal confidence, and on the basis of that begin with effective peace measures. Surely in the case of the U.S., stopping aid to the Contras would be a very positive sign. In the case of Nicaragua, opening national reconciliation, especially with the political parties inside Nicaragua, would be another important sign. I believe that peace is a process of positive signs that create confidence.

[Atwood] During the last Contadora meeting in Punta del Este, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams said that "diplomacy is only words, but with the use of power a solution can be arrived at." Why is your response to that statement, and how did it go over at the Contadora meeting?

[Iglesias] That is the thesis that the government of the U.S. has upheld on repeated occasions. We believe that the road to peace rests fundamentally on strengthening dialogue, and it is there that we have concentrated our efforts.

[Atwood] In light of the recent meeting of the Cartagena group, how does the future look for relations between debtors and creditors?

[Iglesias] Prospects are for an inevitable, growing dialogue because problems are changing systematically every day. All this has to do directly with a political focus for the problem, which does not mean a politicalization of the problem but rather a political focus that recognizes that the solution to the debt problem rests on two fundamental variables: a drastic reduction in real interest rates, and an improvement in terms of trade. If these conditions are not forthcoming, the debt will have no solution. It might be administered, but it will not be definitively solved. In coming months, I think that we are going to stress these crucial issues, which if not forthcoming, could force some countries into very delicate situations in which they would be forced to take unilateral decisions, which no one wants at this point but which form part of the need to act in the face of circumstances. We prefer reason to force, dialogue to confrontation, and it is in that spirit that we are moving. For that reason, the future of the foreign debt will depend on what happens with these two great elements: interest rates and terms of trade.

[Atwood] Is Uruguay one of those countries that would feel itself forced to take unilateral action?

[Iglesias] Not at this time because our situation is not of that order. On the contrary, the drop in oil prices has brought us clear advantages like a considerable improvement in our balance of payments. Also, the reduction in interest rates, though modest, is also a very important point for paying our foreign debt.

[Atwood] In light of the effect of oil price drops on oil-producing debtors like Mexico and Venezuela, what are the prospects for any real Latin American unity on the debt?

[Iglesias] We have always held that Latin America has a great capacity for concentrating on the points that unite and trying to minimize the points that divide it. I believe that the debt group continues more united than ever in spite of differences. In spite of the fact that we may find ourselves in circumstantially different situations, interest rates and terms of trade are absolutely common to all countries. On these two points there is no division in Latin America, on the contrary, there is a great unity and that is what we saw in the Punta del Este message.

[Atwood] Have you detected any important change in attitude on the part of creditors with regard to the debt?

[Iglesias] There is a growing understanding on the part of creditors with respect to the nature of our problem. In recent months, bankers have shown an increasing sensitivity on the need to do more. The Baker Plan is a demonstration of that growing sensitivity, as it is a way of adding new things toward the solution of our problem. I would say that chances for dialogue are perhaps better now than before, due to the greater capacity for understanding on the part of creditors.

[Atwood] Has that greater understanding translated into any concrete changes?

[Iglesias] The Baker Plan is a first response from the creditor side. In the same way, there must be concrete measures like reducing interest rates.

[Atwood] The tone of the final statement at Punta del Este was more moderate than expected. Would you have preferred stronger language?

[Iglesias] Absolutely not. I believed we expressed ourselves in the language that we all wanted. The press may have expected something else, but what I expected was exactly this: a mechanism for consultation with Venezuela and Mexico, which were the countries that requested the meeting, and reciprocal support for them by means of that mechanism for consultation. There was no reason to expect a spectacular resolution.

[Atwood] What are the prospects for the future of the Uruguayan-Argentine trade agreement CAUCE?

[Iglesias] We believe that the CAUCE accord is a very important instrument that benefits both countries. It is based strictly on the principle of dynamic, balanced, mutually adjusted trade, and has a solid reason for being because it generates trade currents on both sides. The accord showed that last year, with an important increase in Argentine and Uruguayan exports. For that reason I am optimistic and I think it will work. Are there problems? Yes, but if there are any two countries that can have balanced, growing relations, they are Argentina and Uruguay. I believe the problem is to find ourselves at ever-higher levels than we have currently. That is the issue: It is a relation of mutual benefit. And for that reason it must be a relation that will expand.

NATIONAL PARTY NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT CABINET

PY241244 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] National Party leader Alberto Zumaran has stated that his party will not participate in the next government cabinet. He added, however, that this will not affect the intraparty agreement. Meanwhile, Uruguayan Vice President Tarigo has reported that a document seeking a solution to obtain an intraparty consensus will be issued in the next few days.

LUSINCHI REFUTES RUMORS OF PARDON FOR CUBANS

PA232223 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Caracas, 21 Mar (EFE) — In its issue today DIARIO, a Caracas newspaper, states that Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi has refuted rumors of an alleged pardon for those charged with blowing up a Cuban plane and who have been in prison for the past 10 years. On Thursday afternoon rumors spread in Caracas regarding the release from prison of Orlando Bosch, Hernan Ricardo, and Freddy Lugo. The wife of Orlando Bosch, an anti-Castro Cuban accused of being the mastermind of this plot, went to the gate of the jail where the prisoners are being held. According to DIARIO, the Presidency's Secretariat said that one of the versions regarding a possible pardon "is not true."

The same newspaper published a statement by Justice Minister Jose Manzo Gonzalez. Minister Manzo Gonzalez refuted the rumors and said that there is a commission studying the issue of pardons; however, "there is nothing" on the case of the Cuban plane.

LIBYAN OFFICIAL SENDS MESSAGE TO CONSALVI

PA260634 Paris AFP in Spanish 0415 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Caracas, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Kamel Hussan al-Mansour, new Libyan foreign secretary, has sent a message to his Venezuelan counterpart Simon Consalvi reiterating his country's desire to consolidate the ties of friendship with Venezuela, the Foreign Ministry announced today. Hussan al-Mansour's message coincided with a heightening of hostilities between the United States and Libya following yesterday's incident in the Gulf of Sidra. However, the Foreign Ministry declined to make any comment on the matter.

Ali Sunnin Muntasir, president of the Diplomatic Institute of Foreign Liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who has been visiting Caracas since 24 March, delivered the message personally to the director general of the Foreign Ministry, German Nava. Ali Sunnin Muntasir was the first Libyan ambassador with residence in Venezuela (1971-1975). The new Libyan foreign minister was formerly oil minister and president of OPEC.

LUSINCHI NOT TO ATTEND DEBT SYMPOSIUM IN U.S.

PA221603 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p D 4

[From the "Looking at Miraflores" column by J. Lossada Rondon]

[Text] Carmelo Lauria, minister of the secretariat of the presidency, announced on 13 March that President Lusinchi will not travel to the United States, as had been reported this week. "The president has authorized me to state that his plans do not include a trip to the United States." It has been reported that the president would attend a symposium on the Latin American foreign debt to be held at the Emory University Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, on 7 and 8 April at which former Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber and Mexican Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog would also speak. It had been reported in the United States that Lusinchi was going to speak on the topic: "What Must the International Community Do To Resolve the Debt Crisis?"

DEBT PAYMENTS DEFERRED FOR SECOND TIME

FL252206 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1925 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The international financial community has agreed in principle to postpone for 180 days the payment of $950 million that Mexico was to have made in the first days of April, the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit has announced.

The Secretariat has reported that Mexico asked for the postponement because of the drop in its income from oil sales and the reconstruction program made necessary by last September's earthquakes. It said that because of conditions prevailing in the country, it had requested a first deferment of 180 days on 1 October 1985 and has now obtained a second postponement.

The Secretariat of Finance said that in 1983 Mexico had obtained financing of a fresh $5 billion to cover its immediate needs in the negotiations carried out by international banks in mid-1984 [dates as received]. The negotiations, he added, were formalized in 1985 to restructure about $50 billion of foreign debt. Of this loan, $250 million has already been paid, it said.

NEW MEMBER OF INTER-AMERICAN INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

PA252357 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] In Mexico City, the Finance Secretariat has reported the formal admission of Mexico and other Latin American countries into the Inter-American Investments Corporation [CII].

Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog noted in San Jose, Costa Rica, where the admission agreement was signed, that the Inter-American Investments Corporation is very important for our country.

Through the CII, small and medium enterprises will improve their role in the country's economic activity. With access to these resources, these kinds of enterprises will obtain financing under favorable conditions and terms, will satisfy their needs for capitalization, and will have the necessary technical assistance for development.

The CII was formed within the framework of the IDB meeting that will begin in San Jose, Costa Rica, tomorrow. Its creation is a result of a proposal made by IDB President Antonio Ortiz Mena in May 1979.

The CII will work as an organization affiliated with the IDB and will promote as well as participate in the investments of private enterprises of Latin America.

BRIEFS

MARIJUANA, SHIPS SEIZED -- Early today Mexican Navy members stopped Portete II, a Colombian fishing boat, apparently involved in drug trafficking activities. When it was searched, marijuana seeds and remnants of the plant were found. This boat was seized only a few hours after the Fermin II, a Mexican ship, was seized with 12 tons of marijuana on board. The Attorney General's Office has begun investigations to determine if there is any link between the two ships. [Summary] [Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 21 Mar 86 PA]

NORIEGA INTERVIEWED ON ECONOMY, SECURITY

PA212334 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Interview with General Manual Antonio Noriega, commander of the National Defense Forces, and Colonel Leonidas Marcias, chief of the Police Force, by Televisora Nacional Director Eric Rodriguez Auerbach at the National Defense Forces Headquarters in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] [Rodriguez] First of all, we respectfully ask you to evaluate, as the commander of the National Defense Forces, these past 10 days of conflict in the country.

[Noriega] We can evaluate the crisis of these past 10 days and the strike that ended early today not as an isolated case of Panama or as a domestic matter but within the entire context of the current Latin American and world situation, in which the big financial organizations that belong to the big powers have smothered the weak economies of Latin American countries.

We have received as an inheritance the policy of indebtedness which the IMF practices. We have received as an inheritance the visible political and social strangulation by these big organizations that cound not foresee the outcome of their playing with the investments. Consequently, we are paying a high cost. Therefore, Panama is a member of that club of the strangled. Panama is not isolated. What occurred in Panama is not isolated either. This is related to the Santo Domingo incidents where there were 15 people killed. This is related to the incidents in San Salvador and the strike that is underway in Argentina. The transportation sector just declared a strike against President Alfonsin. This is part of the violence that is underway in other other Latin American countries as a result of the big stick policy of the economic organizations which put the governments in debt.

So what is occurring is an inherited crisis. Panama cannot take a stand either to give me everything or nothing. Panama is not in a position to head for political, economic, or social suicide by saying I won't pay. This is not the Panamanian reality.

Other countries may do that. Other governments may take that stand, but Panama cannot do it, and the Panamanian labor movement -- I understand all its actions and stands -- was not duly informed of all the steps of the problem. This is a collective criticism for all of us. This is a positive evaluation of negative facts.

I believe that at the end of this strike the government, as well as the political experts, the advisers, the economists, all of us, the entire government team, must meet and talk about it with the president of the Republic so that the workers can obtain basic compensations for what they lost.

We believe that this is the path now. The path of implementation must be the path of compensation. It must not be the path of division or separation. It must be a path of coordination, analysis and planning toward a new stage. We must demand that this new stage be implemented in an effective manner and in a way in which the labor movement continues to be strong as has been the main principles of this generation and revolution.

[Rodriguez] TV-2 was present at the moment when Conato [National Council of Organized Workers] announced that the strike would end at midnight. However, there was a worrisome announcement in the Conato statement when it told the country that it, as an organized labor force, was breaking ties with the government of His Excellency Eric Arturo Delvalle. How do the Armed Forces view this decision by the organized labor movement?

[Noriega] The National Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama have great respect and admiration for the historical leaders of this movement. They are leaders such as Rios, Ordonez, Meneses, Monterrey, Alvaro Munoz, Montoto, Mauro Murillo, and Prado, as well as all those leaders who are positive examples and express everything that represents Torrijism as a labor force. We respect these men very much. We also feel that they are true and intelligent leaders. This is why they are there.

History simply placed them at that crossroads where there was no other way for either their prestige or that of the labor movement. [sentence as heard] We want the government of President Delvalle to -- and he has told us that it will -- do everything possible and make every effort so this breaking-off does not happen. Why? Because there are other enemies here. The enemies aren't those who had to impose the laws. The enemies aren't the honorable legislators. The enemies aren't the men who had to go to the United States to fight [for the debt]. Therefore, the message to the workers is that there is a hidden and sly enemy who is waiting at the end of the tunnel. He is waiting for Panamanian workers to deliver to him a fait accompli on a silver platter. They are hiding as wolves in sheep's clothing, waiting to destroy the government and then destroy the labor movement. Therefore, one should not be deceived. They want to destroy President Delvalle's government because, within its origins and conditions, it is a completely progressive government that gives guarantees for the evolution of the union movement. They want to destroy them and then destroy the workers. They will first go after the president's government and then the workers, the ideological persecution, and the persecution of progressive men who led this labor movement to the place it is at right now with their prestige. We do not believe that the union movement was defeated. We do not believe that there are winners and losers here. We do not believe that the best stand is a break-off. We believe that there must be an implementation [of the laws]. We believe that there should be search for compensation within the implementation. So that the workers know that they have a friendly government they can trust.

[Rodriguez] In these past 10 days of national problems, our newscast's evaluation was that one of the aspects that affected the community the most was the acts of vandalism in some of the city streets, affecting stores, as well as the explosion of some pipe bombs. This brought much concern to the community, and we would like to know how the Panamanian Armed Forces are handling this.

[Noriega] This problem falls under the antisocial and police sector. Colonel Macias, who is in charge of the police forces, is in charge of that matter, and we know that he has all the clues. He knows who they are, and at the right moment his forces will take action. This is a problem that I want to place under police responsibility and under that of Col Macias, who runs the National Department of Investigation and the other urban security organizations.

[Rodriguez] Col Macias, could you expand on what General Noriega said?

[Macias] Yes, the security organizations in the urban area already established controls, and we are after very specific clues concerning the individuals who are placing the bombs. Regarding the vandalism in the city, we took security measures in two ways: There were demonstrations, and we felt they were honest ones which carried no violence. Violence occurred after the demonstrations, and we proceeded, after the demonstrations, to take security measures because vandalism was underway in the streets. We could not repress anyone because there were no indications to do that. Thus, we are taking control measures. We have many clues, and we are on our way to solving the problem of bombs.

[Rodriguez] Gen Noriega, we know that you participated in an interesting meeting with President Delvalle, President Monge of Costa Rica, and the president-elect [of that country]. Any comments on this relationship with a friendly and neighboring country like Costa Rica?

[Noreiga] Last night Costa Rican President Monge met with us at the David fair. He is a regular visitor to that fair. In addition, President-elect Oscar Arias was also there. He was received by our President Delvalle and within the framework of their talks they reaffirmed the historical ties between the two countries, their agreement in the search for peace, the main points of Contadora as a way for a solution, Costa Rica's need for security because of its border with a country in conflict, and the need to preserve the traditional democracy and peace of Costa Rica, which is indirectly related to Panama's peace.

As we have seen in the past few days, there have been violent acts in Costa Rica carried out by criminals. They included bank robberies carried out by foreigners: Nicaraguans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans. This confirms what we said: The immigration bomb is more explosive than violence itself. We talked about that. We talked about the concepts of unity and the border agreements. This is what we talked about basically.

[Rodriguez] We ask Noriega to summarize the country's problem at this time.

[Noriega] I want to end with a summary, because this conversation is opportune. First, I want to tell you the view of the Defense Forces regarding the adjustments to the Labor Code and the strike and its consequences. This is what we think. As an argument we must accept that there is an international reality that is adverse and directly affects the country's economy and finances. This is a truth that no one can deny.

Second, this direct effect is not the fault of the government or of Panama. The culprit is an international economic group which got the country into debt and got the Latin American countries into debt and is collecting payment for this debt now.

There is also a reality in the country: There is a lack of employment for the men and women of the country. In the past there were solutions for this: First, there was the suggestion to submit to the proposals made by international financial organizations without consulting our own realities. In other words, an effort was being made to impose another model and plan without considering the country's reality. Another solution was to leave things as they were and fight to the end keeping the status quo. That status quo was to join a club that said: We will not pay. The I-won't-pay club. But that is no solution for Panama because Panama has no other economic resource then that derived from services. This no payment club is good for other governments and realities but not for Panama's reality. Panama cannot say I won't pay.

The two solutions attacked the problems as a temporary situation only. This is the truth. The problem was tackled as a temporary situation only. We lost sight of the fact that our country has a sacred and historic duty. Let's not be deceived and fall into the trap. They want to distract our attention so that these people, these conquests, these workers, and these student movements do not reach the year 2000. They are trying to distract us so that when 1997, 1998, and 1999 comes around, Panama will not be considered able to assume responsibility for the canal.

Therefore, in view of this, we must be alert and prepared. We see that it is a historic duty for future generations and that we must reach that year 2000, that year 1999, with a generation that has paid the lowest possible social cost. This is the responsibility of today's leaders and of all men, whether they are workers, students, military men, economists, or government officials. They must all play their role in their trenches.

They must help so that in 1998 there won't be an amendment saying that Panama is not able to exercise its right of control and command of the Panama Canal. What we can be sure of is that during this difficult situation we just went through we kept the firm and indestructible political will to continue the liberating process and the Torrijist concept. That which we yielded was given up so as not to damage most of the Torrijist conquests.

Let no one be deceived into thinking that the decision we made today implies that we are abandoning the Torrijist principles. Let none of the foreign and foreign-like leaders think that we are accepting this through pressure. The decision made today has the full historical confidence of the legislators and the government group.

It is necessary that the workers, the peasants, the students, and the professionals know this, which is of the National Defense Forces' evaluation, at this point when a stage of the problems is over. This is our truth. This is our analysis which we are honestly stating. Perhaps some will not like it. Perhaps many won't agree with it. But it is not for them to agree or disagree. It is simply a military evaluation of the problem.

GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMB ATTACKS

PA251426 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] In a mysterious communique that arrived at our offices, the Hugo Spadafora Franco Column of the Democratic Revolutionary Front [Frente Revolucionario Democratico -- FRD] of Panama has claimed responsibility for the bombs that exploded in various places in that country recently. The group stated that the acts were prepared by its freedom commandos and that they did it because they feel that the Panamanian Government is a "corrupt dictatorship." "We will fight for a true and real justice until we place the Panamanian people on the path of truth, law, and justice." The communique ended with these slogans:

No to the dictatorship!

No to drug trafficking!

No to the murderers who are going unpunished!

"We are moving on, and we will not rest until the dictatorship disappears."

Signed by Commander Omar of the Hugo Spadafora Franco Column.

YUGOSLAV FEDERAL SECRETARY MAKES COURTESY VISIT

PA241840 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 22 Mar 86 p 24

[Text] Milenko Bojanic, member of the Federal Executive Council and Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade of Yugoslavia, paid a courtesy call on Minister of Agricultural Development Bruno Garisto, and they exchanged ideas on activities the two countries are carrying out in food production and technical assistance.

Following Minister Garisto's recent visit to Yugoslavia, several technical cooperation agreements were signed in the areas of agricultural mechanization, irrigation, scientific cooperation, and other types of aid that will facilitate agricultural development activities between the two countries.

Minister Garisto expressed the Panamanian Government's interest in obtaining from the Yugoslav Government a number of technical advisory services needed for the development of the agricultural sector. He said that Panama wants to continue receiving this cooperation in obtaining agricultural equipment. Panama is also interested in obtaining a secure market for our tropical products and taking advantage of our country's status as a transit and marketing zone, he said.

During the talks, the possibility was raised of Panamanian technicians travelling to Yugoslavia to receive training in several branches of agricultural production, as Yugoslavia has advanced technology and great experience in this field.

Present at the meeting were the Yugoslav Ambassador to Panama Svetislav Vujovic; Panamanian Ambassador to Yugoslavia Dr Roki Setka Sagel; the Honorable Legislators Alfredo Oranges Bustos and Pedro Brin Martinez; and other members of the Yugoslav official's retinue.

NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR 'WARNED' BY PRD OFFICIAL

PA252336 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Mar 86 p 2-A

[By Flor Quintero]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] will be alert to the actions of Ambassador Arthur Davis, Legislator Pedro Brin Martinez has informed LA PRENSA, and he also warned the U.S. diplomat not to try to apply President Reagan's interventionist policies in Panama because he will be declared persona non grata. He quoted Vienna Convention rules regarding diplomatic relations.

The statements by the PRD legislator, who is chairman of the Legislative Assembly Foreign Relations Commission, came as a result of the arrival in Panama of new U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis. Last February, Davis seriously questioned Panamanian policies during a speech he made in Washington before a U.S. Senate subcommittee.

Brin Martinez clearly stated that "Should Davis ever violate diplomatic principles and rules, the PRD will ask President Delvalle to request his immediate withdrawal from Panamanian territory."

The Darien Province legislator made it clear that the "Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations prohibits ambassadors from becoming involved in the internal affairs of the governments and countries where they exercise diplomatic rights. Therefore, I believe this should be the basic principle governing Arthur Davis' mission in our country," he said.

Brin said that he was not convinced by the explanations made by the U.S. State Department because "since Davis' statements there have been similar incidents -- such as the statements made by Senator Jesse Helms -- who made comments and carried out actions that tend to demonstrate that there is no democracy in our country, that military power is above civilian power, and that in our country actions are needed to contradict the government's principles."

"If upon his arrival in Panama Davis wants to become a U.S. proconsul in Panama, we will make our warning to the national government."

In response to questions on the alleged negotiations still underway between the U.S. Government and Panama regarding political asylum for former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Legislator Brin Martinez pointed out that "it would be illogical, absurd, and antinational to think that, after the president of the Republic issued a communique publicly stating his refusal to grant territorial asylum to Marcos, he will contradict himself and our country's principles, which are aimed at not becoming a country that sells a visa or its sovereignty to shelter a person whom the Philippine Government is calling to justice for murder and other crimes committed in that country."

CORRECTION TO ARTICLE ON CONATO SWITCH TO OPPOSITION

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Conato Leaves UNADE Parties, Joins Opposition," published in the 25 March 1986 Latin America DAILY REPORT, page N 1.

The sourceline should read: Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 20 Mar 86 pp 1, 7

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN APPOINTED -- Berta Torrijos de Arosemena has been appointed new ambassador to Spain. She replaces Carlos Ozores. [Summary] [Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 4 PA]

EL SALVADOR

GEN BLANDON DISCUSSES PROPOSED HOLY WEEK TRUCE

PA252306 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Mar 86

[By Rosi Castillo]

[Excerpts] [Castillo] Here is what Chief of Staff General Adolfo Blandon stated when interviewed by the YSKL news center regarding a possible Holy Week truce with the guerrillas, as the church has mentioned. He also spoke on the vigilance that will be provided by the Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [Blandon] First of all, I must tell you that the Armed Forces cannot talk of a truce with a group of criminals who are the ones who are taking the war and insecurity to the population. The Armed Forces have a constitutional mandate to fulfill, especially in those days that are of great significance to the population, in other words, Holy Week, Christmas, and the independence holiday. We believe that we must be active throughout the national territory with all our units, including the security forces, so that the citizens can feel safe and enjoy their well-deserved rest in this season.

I want to use this opportunity to remind the people that the terrorists do not respect any religious or civic festivity. We have very unfortunate memories of this. During Holy Week in 1983 the terrorists staged 60 terrorist acts. If I remember correctly, during Holy Week in 1984 they carried out 70, and in the 1985 Holy Week they carried out 90 terrorist actions. In view of this precedent, we do not think they plan to stop waging the war against the people. They are the ones who machine-gun the buses. They are the ones who prevent the free movement of the people on the roads. They are the ones who blow up the power lines, leaving the people without that vital service. In this Holy Week season, we have deployed many members of the Army and the security forces so that the citizens can travel to the various beaches.

[Castillo] The civilian population has told you about its problems. I know that you periodically tour the country's municipalities and departments. Have they told you of their problems as they have done with the church? These problems include the bombing of the civilian population, who then abandon their crops. Have they told the Armed Forces about this problem?

[Blandon] Yes, I would say that it is one of the most serious problems that the Armed Forces are trying to solve through the "United To Rebuild" counterinsurgency campaign. One of its main objectives is to have the people return to their places of origin, not to live in hideouts or in fear, but to have them return to their homes, to cultivate the land, and take care of their animals. In this way we will be able to reactivate the entire country as soon as possible. It has been charged that we are forcing the people to abandon their homes. That is not true. Instead, we are providing greater security to them so that they can live peacefully in their homes. We have already begun to do this in the Guazapa area. We are also providing a lot of help in the Tenancingo area. Regarding the charges of bombings, this is, above all, propaganda by the subversives who are trying to discredit the Air Force, which is causing a great deal of damage to them. Some months ago they extended that propaganda campaign to some rapid deployment units. This is because the terrorists are experiencing very difficult times, especially in the area of morale, and they have no other recourse but to stage sabotage actions. To be exact, last year, after carrying out a large number of air missions, I remember only the case in Chalatenango where, due to an error, a bomb fell on the house of a family.

The Air Force commander went there and paid the indemnification to the family, and their house was rebuilt. I also remember the case of Tenancingo where we must admit that an error was committed. However, if we take into account that we have had more than 5 years of war, and if we bear in mind the type of war we are waging, in my view, two cases are insignificant.

[Castillo] General, in Honduras it has been reported that the Salvadoran insurgents are being helped through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and that weapons have been found. In addition, the Salvadoran Armed Forces have found large amounts of Salvadoran Red Cross medicine in caches. What is your comment on this?

[Blandon] From press reports I have learned that in Honduras, near the Colomoncagua refugee camp, a large amount of explosives, weapons, and ammunition were found. The most significant aspect is that for the first time Soviet-made weapons were found in a hideout. The rifles found in the Colomoncagua area were AK rifles. According to the Honduran press, the gentlemen of the UNHCR have some responsibility in the arms traffic in that area. I imagine that the Honduran Government must right now be carrying out thorough investigations to find out who is responsible and how those weapons are entering Honduran territory. Some of them are destined for El Salvador, but probably a large percentage are staying in Honduran territory, and the respective authorities have to be very careful about this.

[Castillo] What about the medicines that are reported to belong to the Salvadoran Red Cross and that have been found in caches in El Salvador? How many caches have the the Armed Forces found so far?

[Blandon] In just the Guazapa area, we have found 228 caches and in eastern Chalatenango where the Lieutenant Chavez Carrena Operation is being carried out, we had found 72 caches up to yesterday. We have found all types of foreign-made medicine. In some cases, we have found medicine with the Red Cross seal but this is a difficult case because the Red Cross provides medical attention and medicine to the civilian population, and it is hard to distinguish whether a person is a terrorist [solely because he has Red Cross medicine]. Only if that person carried a weapon could one tell whether he is a terrorist. Those are the difficult cases for the Red Cross because they do not know who is a terrorist. That is a difficult situation.

Prelate on Cease-Fire

PA260435 San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, has commented on the Holy Week truce.

[Begin recording] [Rivera y Damas] The war, the violence have been taken to great extremes, but I supposed that with the Christian convictions they have that on Good Friday there would be a cease-fire. However, with the experience we had in December, I did not want to talk about the truce anymore. I have appealed to the deepest feelings in the Salvadoran's hearts, asking them to respect Good Friday.

[First unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] after hearing of the military counterinsurgency operations, what about the church's firm promise to offer spiritual guidance to the residents of that area? How has the original plan changed?

[Rivera y Damas] The original plan has changed because the list of refugees presented, in my opinion, does not coincide with the list I had announced during my homily last Sunday.

[Second unidentified reporter] It is said that the church is dislodging the refugees from the shelters. How true is this, and what is the objective?

[Rivera y Damas] It is true. It was an emergency measure. The shelters cannot be too permanent because instead of being educational they become uneducational. [end recording]

FMLN COMMUNIQUE REJECTS IDEA OF 'UNILATERAL TRUCE'

PA260129 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Communique released by the FMLN's General Command on 25 March 1986; read by unidentified speaker]

[Text] Taking into consideration the church's public appeal for a Holy Week truce, the FMLN has reasserted the willingness for this truce, provided this is publicly announced and agreed to by the two sides. Our front has been awaiting an answer from the government and the Armed Forces to determine whether or not to proceed with the truce. During the recent Christmas and New Year festivities, the general staff and Duarte pledged with the church to agree to a truce. Not only did the Army units violate the truce, but most of the garrison commanders publicly voiced their rejection of and disagreement with Duarte and the High Command. All of our people witnessed this, and the news was disseminated throughout the world.

Despite all this, the FMLN's willingness for peace and respect for our people's tradition has led us to consider making arrangements for a new truce, provided the accords are are made public. Both Duarte and the High Command responded negatively to the Church's request for a truce. Duarte even denied that such a proposal had been made. Similarly, bombings against and the dislodgement of civilians have been stepped up. In the specific case of Chalatenango, Duarte and the High Command did not let the church officiate in Arcatao during Holy Week. Quite the contrary, government forces have continued to destroy plantations and homes and captured more than 200 civilians. These facts also are in the public domain. Msgr Rivera y Damas had announced that religious offices would be held during these days in this area. This again makes it clear that the government and the Armed Forces do not want peace and, therefore, do not share our people's banners, but oppose democratic and economic interest and the aspirations for peace of the great majorities. Durate's and the High Command's refusal to accept a truce again reaffirms their desperation as the result of the revolutionary advance that leads them to clash with the people in all sectors and lose all ability for political moves, since now even Duarte has been forced to assume gorilla-like stances in opposition to the role that the Yankees have assigned him.

Because of this, and considering that the Army has continued its bombings and operations against the civilian population -- this is evident and publicly acknowledged both here and abroad -- the FMLN announces:

1. We are not willing to grant any unilateral truces.

2. A truce could occur only if it is agreed upon and publicly announced by the two sides. Therefore, our forces will continue their operational plans previously drafted.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

El Salvador, 25 Mar 1986

HONDURAS

TENSION CONTINUES OVER ALLEGED SANDINIST INCURSION

Press Secretary Interviewed

PA251825 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1615 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Telephone interview with Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the Honduran Presidency, by Rodrigo Wong Arevalo in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Text] [Wong] Washington is insisting that Honduras has been invaded by more than 1,500 Sandinist soldiers. We have gotten in touch with Lisandro Quezada, government press secretary. Lisandro, what do you think of this situation? Washington is obstinately saying that Honduras has been invaded by 1,500 Sandinist soldiers and that President Azcona Hoyo reportedly asked for $20 million in military aid for Honduras. If that were true, one would practically have to admit that Honduras is at war with Nicaragua.

[Quezada] Well, I must tell you that at this time the foreign secretary and General Regalado, commander of the Armed Forces, are meeting at the government house, analyzing the news from the United States. At this time the government does not have reliable reports that the Sandinist troops have invaded our country. I think there is confusion. If such an invasion were true, our Armed Forces have the capacity to repel any aggression.

[Wong] Listen Lisandro, we are worried about this because all the reports are coming from Washington. Here in Honduras you have given a version that seems to make sense to us. These reports about a Sandinist invasion of Honduras appear more the result of a publicity maneuver to support the position of President Reagan, who is obstinately trying to obtain $100 million to aid the counterrevolutionaries. In Honduras our correspondents, our people, and even the Army have not spoken about an invasion of 1,500 Sandinist soldiers.

[Quezada] If there were such an invasion, it would be an aggression. If there were an aggression, the Army would immediately react and respond to it. Now then, it makes sense to think that President Reagan, as a great democrat and being concerned about the interference of nondemocratic political systems in the Central American region, wants to obtain that aid for the contras who are fighting totalitarianism in their country. That idea is acceprable in President Reagan. We think he is struggling to help in this situation and that he is resorting to these propaganda measures.

[Wong] Now then, don't you think that President Azcona's seriousness is being placed in doubt when it is said in Washington that President Reagan has received a Honduran request for $20 million in military aid to fight against Nicaragua?

[Quezada] Yes, but President Azcona has not asked for such aid, at least not in the past 2 days when these reports have come out. If he had asked for it, he would have no reason to conceal this from the Honduran people. A request for help from a friendly and allied country would be an act of sovereignty. The truth is that President Reagan is extremely worried about the political situation in Central America where two totally opposed ideologies confront each other. They are democracy and totalitarianism. In his struggle to eradicate totalitarianism, he unquestionably has to involve us in his campaign or his strategy to obtain aid for the contras.

[Wong] Lisandro, have we or have we not been invaded by 1,000 or 1,500 Sandinist soldiers?

[Quezada] No, we have not been invaded.

[Wong] Why then hasn't the Honduran Government categorically denied such reports? The Security Council met last night, and it did not even issue a bulletin about this. If we have been invaded, we should admit it, and we would already be at war with Nicaragua. If we have not been invaded, why isn't this stated?

[Quezada] The problem is that the Armed Forces are doing everything within their means to thoroughly investigate what is taking place in that region on the border with Nicaragua. However, the fact that the government and the Armed Forces remain completely calm and are calmly looking into this indicates that we are not really at war with Nicaragua.

[Wong] Is the Security Council meeting this morning?

[Quezada] The foreign secretary and Gen Regalado are meeting.

[Wong] But that isn't the Security Council. They are just officials. The Security Council is headed by the president of the Republic.

[Quezada] It includes all the commanders of the branches of the Armed Forces.

[Wong] That is right. It is being said in Washington that the National Security Council is meeting right now, waiting to see what will be the reply to President Reagan's urgent request for $20 million in military aid for Honduras.

[Quezada] Listen, as I said, only Gen Regalado and the foreign secretary are meeting. They have probably been delegated to discuss this matter. Perhaps at the end of their meeting, the foreign secretary will have something to state.

[Wong] Where are they meeting?

[Quezada] Here in the presidential house.

[Wong] According to the reports from Washington, we are practically already close to war with Nicaragua. This is sad because this is not taking place in Honduras. There is a terrible and harmful image of Honduras in Washington.

[Quezada] It definitely hurts us because any provocation of that nature that disrupts peace essentially affects our economy. We cannot prevent that disinformation about our country. But you can see that all our Armed Forces are calm. There are no planes, helicopters, tanks or anything that indicates that we are at war. There is no general mobilization of the citizens. There is no alert by the civil defense. In short, no signs that a war exists. We already had the 1969 experience, and you must remember how it was. I imagine you must have waged your battle from your trench, right?

[Wong] That is right. When there is a conflict, the news media feels it. So then, why is it being said in Washington that there is a war? If President Reagan wants to obtain money for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, why is he getting Honduras involved?

[Quezada] This is my personal view. I think that President Reagan has to in some way justify that aid for the contras, and the way to justify it is by saying that our country can be used as a base for the supply of weapons and other logistics support for the contras. If there were no friendly or allied country that lends itself for this purpose, then I think it very unlikely that the Senate would vote for the Reagan motion.

[Wong] President Reagan is taking advantage of this type of circumstance. The U.S. Senate apparently meets today to begin debating the aid that the President has requested for the counterrevolution. However, I think that all the Honduran people who are listening to these reports... [changes thought] Here we ask the colleagues in the other stations not to alarm the people because it is not true that the Sandinists have invaded the Honduran territory. This is a publicity trick that is being used by President Reagan to impress the Senate that today begins to debate that aid. He began to lose that battle when the House of Representatives refused to grant him authorization.

[Quezada] I was just going to ask you to issue a call for calm so that there will be no alarm in the country. You know that if our country went to war with any country, we would not be waging that war just with our regular soldiers. There would be others who would immediately be asked to be involved. They would first of all be the journalists like you, who in 1969 kept the country's morale high. As far as I know you haven't received any message in that regard, right?

[Wong] None, Lisandro. We have just received the alarming reports from Washington that say that Honduras has asked for $20 million in military aid. If that were true we would have to admit that Honduras is at war with Nicaragua. That is not true. There is no war mobilization here. There has been no massive invasion of 1,500 Sandinists. We have to admit that in an abusive manner, the Sandinists enter Honduran territory when they pursue the counterrevolutionaries. That has already become routine because they enter pursuing the contras and then go back. This has become routine. It is true that this is a violation of sovereignty because under no excuse do the Sandinists have the right to enter our territory.

[Quezada] Just as the contras do not have the right.

[Wong] Just as the contras do not have the right. We have stated that the presence of the counterrevolutionaries is a problem and causes difficulty for Honduras.

[Quezada] It causes difficulty, but as you know in those border situations when there is that type of controversy, it is inevitable that those pursued and those doing the pursuing will enter and leave the territory of both countries. Therefore, one cannot determine when they enter Honduran territory and when they are in Nicaraguan territory. That depends on the clashes between both sides.

[Wong] Lisandro, we ask the government, your office, that when the meeting ends that an official bulletin be issued to clarify the situation on the border and to explain the Honduran position. It could be that Honduras supports President Reagan in his plan to obtain $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. However, this does not mean that false rumors about things that are not taking place in Honduras should be spread. For example, that there is an invasion of 1,500 Sandinist soldiers in Honduras, something that is not taking place.

[Quezada] Well, you are right. We are unquestionably democrats, and we share President Reagan's enthusiasm about having the democratic cause prevail in Central America. However, this does not mean that we have to endure these things.

We will try to see if the foreign secretary, as spokesman of the National Security Council, will issue a bulletin so that the citizens can remain calm.

[Wong] It is a matter of what is best for the country. The Honduran people are now close to a vacation period, to a time of spiritual retreat, to a time of rest. Therefore, the people should not be alarmed about things that are not taking place. Now then, if there is a Sandinist invasion, then let it be announced so that the people can be alerted and warned.

[Quezada] I completely agree with you.

[Wong] I apologize for asking for this interview in such a hasty manner, but we have been listening to reports that are not true. This morning we have been in touch with our correspondents and if there had been a massive Sandinist invasion, the government would have already had to report to the people to confirm or deny it.

[Quezada] I cannot conceive that we were being invaded and that we would not immediately proceed to defend the national sovereignty. That would be unthinkable. That is why those reports from abroad are just the result of confusion and disinformation.

[Wong] Thank you, Lisandro. We hope that at the end of the meeting there will be a bulletin explaining things to the Honduran public.

[Quezada] I will try to get in touch with the foreign secretary so that he will issue a statement.

Communique Confirms Incursion

PA251726 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Press communique issued by the Honduran Government; no date given, read by Press Secretary Lisandro Quezada at the Presidential Palace -- live]

[Text] The Honduran Government has received confirmed reports that in the eastern border region, in the Olancho Department, new incursions by the Sandinist People's Army into Honduran territory have occurred.

In order to control the situation, the government of the Republic has ordered the deployment of forces to that sector with instructions to protect the people and repel the Sandinist troops violating the country's territory.

Since it is an area of difficult access by land and in view of the urgent need for the presence of local forces in the area that the Sandinist forces have entered, we have obtained the necessary support from the U.S. Government in order to airlift Honduran troops. All of this has been done in line with the special security relation existing between the two countries.

In addition, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat has addressed the Nicaraguan Government, urging it to order the immediate withdrawal of its troops to prevent clashes that may threaten peace between the two countries and once again jeopardize the regional peaceful efforts sponsored by the Contadora Group.

For its part, Honduras will continue to resort to every peaceful means and the various international organizations to overcome the Central American crisis.

The Honduran people can be certain that the government and its Armed Forces are handling this situation with caution and calm, but with the determination needed. Consequently, there cannot be any unjustified alarm or concern.

Quezada Responds to Press

PA251923 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1705 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Press conference by Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the Presidency, with unidentified reporters at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Text] [Reporter] Lawyer Lisandro Quezada, why is it that the government officials who participated in the Security Council meeting will not make any statements?

[Quezada] The communique I have just read is practically what they would tell the Honduran people.

[Reporter] What evidence was used as a basis for confirming that there are Sandinist troops in Honduras?

[Quezada] The government has its own mechanisms to gather this kind of information.

[Reporter] When did the Sandinist incursion occur?

[Quezada] The report states only that there was in fact an incursion at the eastern border region in Olancho Department. However, it does not say exactly when the Sandinist troops entered.

[Reporter] Have there been any casualties?

[Quezada] So far we have no reports on casualties, only that there was an incursion.

[Reporter] How many troops.... [another reporter interrupts in background]

[Quezada] They are U.S. planes [transportes aereos], based on the treaty on economic cooperation and military assistance signed by the two countries in 1954.

[Reporter] How many soldiers have been sent to that area?

[Quezada] No, the report does not mention that, it states only that there has been a mobilization of troops. As you can understand, this is a confidential matter within the Security Council.

[Reporter] Has the Presidential Palace made the first contact with the Nicaraguan Government?

[Quezada] At this time the Foreign Secretariat is sending a note to the Nicaraguan Government, protesting the presence of Sandinist troops in our territory.

[Reporter] Would Azcona be willing to discuss the matter with the Nicaraguan president?

[Quezada] I cannot answer that question.

[Reporter] What will happen if the Nicaraguan Government denies the presence of Nicaraguan troops in Honduras?

[Quezada] We cannot tell the Nicaraguan Government what to do.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] assistance or aid from the U.S. Army will further aggravate the conflict between the two nations in view of the act that it comes from an extra-regional power?

[Quezada] No, remember that the aid is being requested within the framework of the security relations between the two countries. In other words, specifically, the request for aid is based on the agreements on economic cooperation and military assistance signed between the United States and our country in 1954, which regulates the joint maneuvers between the two armies.

[Reporter] When will the United Nations and the OAS learn of the Honduran protest?

[Quezada] The Foreign Secretariat is currently using all the adequate channels and instruments to inform the world of the violation of our national territory by Sandinist troops who have crossed our northern border.

[Station announcer] There is one more question on the violation of our national territory by the contras. Let us hear the reply from the press secretary.

[Quezada] No, our territory is not being used as a base for any military force. Our troops and U.S. troops -- whose entrance was approved by the National Congress 2 years ago -- are the only troops that can be legally in our country without violating our sovereignty.

Azcona, Commanders Meet

PA251729 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1713 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] At this time President Jose Azcona is meeting with Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras at his office. It is also reported that top military commanders of the Honduran Armed Forces are also participating in the meeting. The issues being discussed at the meeting are unknown.

Meeting Ends

PA251810 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1735 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Report by Douglas Membreno from the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa -- live telephone relay]

[Text] [Membreno] Radio America listeners, the meeting President Jose Azcona held with General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, and Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras for almost 2 hours has just ended.

It was reported that at this meeting they discussed aspects concerning the recent incursions of Nicaraguan troops into Honduran territory. However, none of the officials who participated in this important meeting dared give any statements, apparently because of the delicate nature of the situation and for security reasons.

However, Radio America obtained some small details of conversation with Regalado.

[Unidentified reporter] This is true, Membreno. We tried to approach Gen Regalado Hernandez to ask him about the fact that after a first meeting Azcona summoned the Armed Forces commander and Lopez Contreras and they returned to his office. After this second meeting we tried to talk with Regalado Hernandez who said that everything had been said. He noted that the press communique was thorough and clear about the Honduran situation. However, he confirmed that by orders of the president and the top military command, troops have been sent to the border area in conflict. He said that people don't have to be alarmed and that these are situations that occur but that Honduras is handling the situation calmly. He said that he does not foresee that there will be confrontations between the two Armies. But he added that the people in the area in conflict will be protected, especially in El Paraiso Department and part of Olancho Department where the areas of conflict are located.

This has been ordered after international dispatches stated that counterrevolutionaries tried to enter Nicaraguan territory and the Sandinist People's Army repelled the attack. In this regard, Regalado Hernandez said that the Honduran Army is on alert. He noted that there is a mobilization under way but he did not specify how many men were sent to the border.

He also said that next week, after the Holy Week period, if circumstances do not permit it [as heard], they will issue a communique from the top military command on the deployment of troops on the border and what they are doing. But we will limit ourselves to what has been said through the communique read at the presidential house and which Radio America aired to the public.

Nicaraguan Envoy 'Recalled'

PA251855 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1828 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] We have a last-minute report. Radio America is in a position to confirm, by virtue of a contact we made with the Nicaraguan Embassy several minute ago, that Nicaraguan Ambassador Danilo Abud Diaz has been recalled by his government to Nicaragua. His departure was set to take place this week, as leave during the Easter holidays. However, as a result of the developments reportedly taking place on the border, specifically in the east and in Olancho Department, the Nicaraguan ambassador might leave tomorrow.

NICARAGUA REPORTEDLY DOWNS ARMY HELICOPTER

PA251816 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Live report by Jose Mairena Tercero]

[Text] The public relations officer of the Armed Forces, Major Arguello, has just confirmed that a Honduran helicopter has been shot down by Sandinist anti-aircraft artillery. The helicopter crashed in Honduran territory, and it is believed that it was shot down in our own territory. It is not yet known how many Honduran soldiers were in the helicopter or if there were any officers on board.

The Public Relations Office told us it would tell us as soon as it had all the details of this incident that took place approximately 30 minutes ago along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon urgently reported that Lieutenant General Galvin, chief of the Southern Command, will be arriving this afternoon in Tegucigalpa to intervene directly and see what the Honduran Government needs right now for the war, as this is practically a Honduran-Nicaraguan war. [sentence as heard]

Military Denies Downing

PA251901 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1811 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Concerning a report by our fellow worker Mairena Tercero concerning the downing of a helicopter, we have contacted the chief of the Armed Forces Public Relations Office, Major Arguello, to avoid this type of speculation. Apparently another radio station has said that a Honduran helicopter had been shot down by Sandinist infantry troops, but we want to ask the official Armed Forces spokesman if this is true. Did an attack against a Honduran plane take place a few minutes ago, Maj Arguello?

[Arguello] Right now we do not have any official report on that situation. Actually, we are conducting the necessary investigations to determine what is happening in our country. To prevent speculation, the Press and Information Office of the Presidency has issued a bulletin. It is somewhat brief, but it has valuable information. Also, it is important to bear in mind that the Armed Forces are alert to any situation that might endanger our people or country.

[Reporter] Major, then there has not been any attack in recent hours against a Honduran aircraft?

[Arguello] Right now we have no knowledge to that effect.

[Reporter] Apparently there was another report a few days ago, but this was not confirmed either.

[Arguello] That is right. About 6 to 7 days ago there was a similar report, but nothing was confirmed.

[Reporter] Well, apparently, there was a rumor to the effect that a Honduran helicopter had been attacked in the border area by Sandinist soldiers who fired upon the aircraft that was flying over the sovereign territorial skies of Honduras. This rumor spread, but if you say that you have no official report to this effect, then the Armed Forces have no reports that this has taken place.

[Arguello] That is right. If at any time of the day or night, or during the weekend hours, we have any reports, we will give you that report if it is official, because it is very important so the Honduran people will feel calm. Rest assured that your Armed Forces are on the alert and fulfilling their sacred duties of safeguarding the sovereignty of our national territory.

[Reporter] Maj Arguello, the government communique read a few minutes ago by the press secretary, Lisandro Quezada, said that the Honduran Government was mobilizing troops to the border with the help of the U.S. Government to prevent any attack against our sovereignty. Could we know how many soldiers the Honduran Government has mobilized to the border?

[Arguello] The truth is that I cannot give you this type of information, because you know that some of these things are national security issues. We would be supplying the enemy specific information on movements that we are conducting and which we are entitled to do because it is the sovereign right of our country.

[Reporter] That is OK, Major. Thank you for your confirmation. In other words, neither the Public Relations Office of the Armed Forces nor the Armed Forces has any information on an attack against a Honduran helicopter. Thank you for speaking to Radio America in order to confirm this report that had been learned by some media.

[Arguello] Thank you. I wish to confirm that our doors are always open to cooperate with you, and I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to tell the Honduran people to rest assured that the Armed Forces are always concerned over any situation that might endanger the tranquillity of Honduras and its people. Let us hope this Holy Week will be a time so all will rest.

U.S. DONATES $20 MILLION FOR TROOP TRANSPORTATION

PA251952 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1854 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] [Station announcer] Much attention, listeners from throughout the Republic, in statements made to the international press at noon today at the Presidential Palace, the press secretary of the Honduran Government, officially acknowledged that the U.S. Government, that is the U.S. Congress, today approved $20 million for the transportation of Honduran troops to the Nicaraguan border area. Douglas Membreno has more details from our news center.

[Membreno] Radio America listeners, Companero Elan Reyes got the exclusive statements made for the international press by Press Secretary Attorney Lisandro Quezada. It was confirmed that approximately 40 million lempiras, $20 million, will be earmarked for the transportation of Honduran troops to be deployed to the Nicaraguan border in Olancho Department where the incursion of Sandinist troops on Honduran soil was confirmed. Companero Elan Reyes is here with the report.

[Reyes] Yes, Douglas, at this time we also confirm that this interview was granted to the CBS Network. The press secretary said that the military aid at this moment consists only of planes to urgently transport Honduran soldiers that might be transported to the conflict area. He said that there is a strict order to repel any Sandinist incursion on Honduran territory. However, at this moment, they do not know the number of Honduran soldiers already transported to the conflict area. We will now listen to the statements made by the press secretary to the CBS Network received by the Government House: [recorded passage indistinct]

Troops Sent to Border

PA260035 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2324 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 25 Mar (DPA) -- Today Honduras sent an undisclosed number of troops to the border with Nicaragua to repel the Sandinist Army invasion of its territory, official sources reported in Tegucigalpa. The troop mobilization was carried out with the help of U.S. military vehicles, according to a communique read by Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the president, who added that this is the first time that Honduras has requested U.S. assistance to face a Nicaraguan "invasion."

To request U.S. assistance for the transportation of its troops, Honduras based its petition on the economic and military aid agreements with the United States, Guezada explained. He also said that "Honduras will continue to seek other peaceful means at different international forums, to solve the Central American crisis."

Meanwhile, at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa it was confirmed that "President Jose Azcona has not asked President Ronald Reagan for military aid to repel the Nicaraguan troops," a clear denial of versions released in Washington about President Reagan ordering $20 million in military aid for Honduras, "requested by Azcona."

NICARAGUAN ENVOY CALLS FOR BORDER COMMISSION

PA260138 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2345 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Telephone interview by Danilo Abud Vivas, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras, with unidentified reporter; place not given -- live]

[Text] [Reporter] What is your opinion of the reports from Washington which, in a way, have been confirmed by the Honduran Government?

[Abud Vivas] I want to address myself to the Honduran Government and people to state that the Nicaraguan Government is interested in clarifying these alleged incursions by the EPS into Honduran territory and to establish for once and for all Nicaragua's respect for Honduras' territorial integrity and sovereignty. We are asking the Contadora Group to form an inspection and verification commission that can come at once to the common border to verify that there has been no EPS incursion into Honduran territory, thus demonstrating that those who enter Honduran territory and also Nicaraguan territory are the Somozist groups at the service of the United States.

In this regard, we must also respond to the note that the Honduran Foreign Ministry issued today in response to this alleged incident. We are also urging the Honduran Government to support this Nicaraguan initiative to bring the peace that our people in the border areas are demanding, thus making it clear that there has been no violation of Honduran territory by Nicaraguan troops.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, has this request already been made in Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama?

[Abud Vivas] Exactly. Just 30 minutes ago the request was made of the countries that form the Contadora Group, and I hope that within approximately 1/2 hour I will also have a response to the note that we sent to the Honduran Government, in which -- as I said -- we stated Nicaragua's interest in having Honduras support its initiative in order to bring the peace needed by our people.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, at the presidential house there was a sort of rumor today that you have been called by your government to Managua.

[Abud Vivas] I am grateful to you for that question because I am interested in explaining this. I heard the reports today on local radio station, and there is no truth to them. I had planned to take my Holy Week vacation in the interior of Nicaragua and to handle this case as seriously as it merits. Nicaragua wants to clarify that these reports are not true.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, Commander Dora Maria Tellez said yesterday that Nicaragua is willing to receive arms, regardless of where they come from, because arms are not ideological or political. What do you say about this?

[Abud Vivas] This is the official position of the Nicaraguan Government. We have always insisted on our right to defend ourselves, and while there is a foreign aggression against Nicaragua we will implement this right to request resources and technical military equipment to guarantee our defense, our territorial integrity, and our nationality.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, Tip O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, will be in Caracas tomorrow. Will he be invited to come to the Honduran-Nicaraguan border?

[Abud Vivas] I repeat that this initiative has been requested of the Contadora Group and the Support Group. It is up to the Latin American group to decide if the want to include other sectors. We prefer to have this problem solved by Latin Americans and not include sectors foreign to [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr Ambassador.

900 SANDINST TROOPS REPORTED 'TRAPPED'

PA260625 Paris AFP in Spanish 0531 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Some 900 EPS troops are surrounded in Honduran territory and cannot leave or receive assistance, the city newspaper LA TRIBUNA reported today, based on reports from the city of Danli, El Paraiso Department. The report, attributed to a reliable source, was confirmed by two peasants coming from the region of Capire in the remote region of Arenales, 240 km east of this capital, who arrived in Danli, the principal border city, today.

The sources, according to the report, claimed that the Sandinist soldiers are virtually trapped in the vicinity of Espanol Grande, Arenales sector, some 6 km from the border with Nicaragua. It was precisely in that sector where the Sandinist troops made an incursion, the sources indicated, and not in any border region of Olancho Department north of El Paraiso, as the government house had reported. The presence of the EPS troops in that region was confirmed to AFP by a reliable source in this capital, who indicated that they are some 8 to 10 km north of the sector known as Las Vegas, El Paraiso.

The sources explained to LA TRIBUNA that the Sandinist penetration occurred between Friday and Saturday, taking advantage of the fact that during those days the Honduran military presence in the region was reduced when troops were relieved last week, according to official sources.

However, when the Sandinists entered Arenales an insurgent column surrounded them while the Honduran Army reinforcements hemmed them in, according to the sources. The situation of the Nicaraguan troops "is very delicate, they noted, because they cannot leave without the risk of being killed unless they surrender, nor can they be aided from Nicaragua."

COMMUNITY LEADERS REPORT EPS-CONTRA BATTLES

PA251433 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1205 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Sandinists and counterrevolutionaries have clashed in Honduran territory.

The clashes took place in Espanol Grande, an area of Arenales, about 6 km from the border. Community leaders of the Arenales area have reported that fierce battles have been waged between Nicaraguan insurgent forces and EPS troops in Honduran territory. The battles have place in Espanol Grande village in the area of Arenales, 6 km from the Nicaraguan border and 238 km southeast of Tegucigalpa, the sources reported.

According to the community leaders, the battles began on Saturday and continued all day Sunday. The source [as heard] expressed fear about possible reprisals because he reported this, but he said that the situation has worsened because the battles on the border have been intense in the last few days and the civilian population has continued its exodus to the interior of the country.

The situation of Las Trojes, 48 km from Espanol Grande, is also one of uneasiness because the sound of gunfire along the border can be heard there, our source said. The community leader said he had seen several North Americans in the area of Arenales who were traveling in vehicles. Residents of the area have noticed frequent visits by North Americans who travel in private vehicles carrying food and clothing to the contras.

Meanwhile, there has been no mobilization of the Honduran Army in the Paraiso region. According to military sources, there has just been routine relief. Since September 1985, the Armed Forces mobilized the 9th Battalion to provide vigilance from El Pedregalito to (El Tablazo) along the El Paraiso border as a result of the residents' request for greater Honduran military presence to guarantee their tranquillity.

New Incursions in Olancho

PA252330 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2250 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Honduran Government has received confirmed information from the [word indistinct] border post, Olancho Department, that new EPS incursions into Honduran territory have occurred. In an attempt to control the situation, the Honduran Government has ordered the deployment of troops to those areas to protect the people and repel the Nicaraguan troops that are violating our national territory. Since access by land to this area is extremely difficult, and in view of the urgent need to deploy the troops to this area, the U.S. Government has been asked, and it has supplied, the necessary means to air transport the troops to the area. This was done in accordance to the special security [word indistinct] existing between the two countries.

At the same time, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat has addressed the Nicaraguan Government urging them to order the immediate withdrawal of their troops and prevent confrontations that could endanger the peace between the two countries and further hinder the peacemaking efforts being made by the Contadora Group.

EPS Suffers 100 Casualties

PA260055 Paris AFP in Spanish 0037 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Reliable sources in this capital told AFP that the EPS has suffered more than 100 casualties during clashes with Nicaraguan insurgents in southern Honduras.

According to the sources, "heavy clashes, with a considerable number of casualties suffered by the two sides, continued" in the area of Arenales, Paraiso Department, about 15 km from the Nicaraguan border and 240 km from Tegucigalpa, today at 1600 local time.

Local residents have reported that the clashes between insurgents and EPS troops began Saturday. A diplomatic source in Tegucigalpa said that "heavy fighting is occuring in Honduras. From a military viewpoint, this is a very serious situation." The source indicated that in the deployment of Honduran troops to the border with Nicaragua, announced by the Presidential Palace at noon, U.S. helicopters of the type used during the joint Honduras-U.S. exercises are being utilized.

TWO INJURED BY SANDINIST MINE IN BORDER TOWN

PA251617 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1512 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By Choluteca correspondent Juan Ramon Aguilare]

[Text] Two Hondurans were seriously injured when they stepped on a mine. Hondurans Armando Merlo and Emilio Zepeda, who were in the Las Guasaules border village in El Triunfo jurisdiction, stepped on a field mined by Nicaraguans. The mine destroyed the right leg [words indistinct] of Emiliano Zepeda who are hospitalized in the Southern hospital. This shows the Sandinist disrespect of Honduran territory.

PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE IN ACCIDENT; AZCONA UNHURT

PA260001 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By David Romero]

[Excerpts] Approximately 20 minutes ago President Jose Azcona's motorcade was involved in an accident. The president and his family were traveling from Tegucigalpa to Puerto Cortes. Near Potrerillos, Cortes, a speeding fuel truck forced the motorcade to the side of the road. Several of President Azcona's bodyguards were slightly injured. We wish to report that President Azcona and his family were not injured. However, two police cars were hit by the fuel truck. One of the cars turned over several times before it crashed into a gully. The bodyguards were slightly injured. The car in which President Azcona was traveling was also hit by the fuel truck, which was carrying fuel to Tegucigalpa. It is believed that speeding was the cause of the accident; however, some believe that the accident could have been avoided. It is not known whether the fuel truck driver fell asleep at the wheel before it hit the motorcade.

CORRECTION TO NICARAGUAN MINISTER'S INTERVIEW

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Nicaraguan Minister on Charge," published in the 25 March Latin America DAILY REPORT on Page P 5:

Sourceline should read: Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0115 GMT 25 Mar 86

NICARAGUA

FORMATION OF BORDER COMMISSION REQUESTED

PA260225 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0107 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist government has asked the Contadora Group to form a vigilance and inspection commission that would operate at the Honduras-Nicaragua border.

The request was presented after an alleged raid by 1,500 Sandinist soldiers and the deployment of Honduran combat troops to the border with Nicaragua was announced in Washington and Tegucigalpa. The Sandinist Army, however, denied this raid and reported that about 600 contras were repelled from a border area on 10, 11, and 12 March and forced to flee to Honduras.

Jose Leon Talavera, one of the two deputy foreign ministers, has asked Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia -- which form the Contadora Group -- and Peru, Argentine, Brazil, and Venezuela -- which form the Support Group -- to organize a border vigilance commission. This request aims at putting an end to the armed anti-Sandinist centers at the border, which use Honduran territory for their camps, according to charges by Managua. During a press conference tonight, Talavera stressed the "calm" with which the Honduran Government has been handling the situation at the border.

In turn, Nicaraguan Deputy Defense Minister Joaquin Cuadra told Radio Sandino that the Sandinist Army repelled 600 contras who raided the border area of Teotecacinte in the country's north. The military leader said that the contras penetrated Nicaraguan territory in six 100-man columns "with the intention of propagandizing the approval of the $100 million" that the U.S. Congress currently discusses.

The deputy minister said that the violent clashes occurred 11, 12, and 13 March. Cuadra also said that the clashes took place in Nicaraguan territory, but he did not indicate the number of casualties. He said that the anti-Sandinists fled to the mountains in an effort to reach Honduran territory.

Quoted by Radio Sandino, the officer also denied that government troops have penetrated Honduran territory, as the Reagan administration has charged. He also denied that Sandinist soldiers have been captured by the rebels and challenged the Reagan administration to show those presumably detained.

TUNNERMAN REFUTES CHARGES OF SANDINIST INVASION

PA260911 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0325 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, 25 Mar (EFE) -- The "slanderous affirmations" by the U.S. Government "are part of the campaign to present Nicaragua as an aggressor country and thus secure Congress approval of the $100 million for the counterrevolution," the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Washington stated today.

"If, as the U.S. Administration says, the contras have Sandinist prisoners, it would be good if they presented them," Ambassador Carlos Tunnerman stated. He reiterated the Sandinist desire to "defeat the contras who are inside Nicaragua, but not those who are in Honduras" and said that these incidents are occurring because the contras use Honduras as a sanctuary."

At a press conference the ambassador read a press communique supplied by the Managua Foreign Ministry rejecting as "totally false" the participation of Nicaraguan troops in a possible invasion against Honduras, denounced by Washington and Tegucigalpa. He admitted that "there may" have been a clash with the rebels, "but inside Nicaraguan territory."

Tunnerman termed "very surprising" the change in the Honduran Government which in the morning "denied the invasion and a request for aid to the United States, but a few hours later, in a 180-degree turn, admitted both things."

He said that the last telephone contact between President Daniel Ortega and Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo was on Sunday when, according to the U.S. Administration, the invasion by Sandinist troops had already occurred. He asked the U.S. Congress that "before stating its stand on the matter, it wait to have evidence, because it is unfortunate to accept as a fact that which is false." The Senate will debate tomorrow the granting of $100 million in military and humanitarien aid to the "contras" and late in the afternoon or on Thursday morning will vote on the aid.

Astorga Refutes Charge

PA252352 Paris AFP in Spanish 2314 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] United Nations, New York, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Nicaragua has categorically rejected the "lies" reported by the United States of an alleged incursion of Nicaraguan troops into Honduras, and accused the Reagan administration of trying to find a pretext for a direct intervention against the Sandinist regime. Nora Astorga, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, categorically denied that troops from her country are at this moment in Honduran territory, because Nicaragua is not an aggressor, "it does not have aggressive plans against Honduras or anyone else."

"The United States has told many lies...the danger of this is that some end up believing them," Astorga said during a press conference. When asked if she would take back her words if evidence of a Nicaraguan intervention in Honduras were presented to her, Astorga said that "it is impossible to obtain any evidence," while mentioning that the United States had already accused Nicaragua of supporting the guerrillas in Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, "which was a big surprise for the authorities of those countries."

In Astorga's opinion, the alleged Nicaraguan incursion is "a fake incident...an act of provocation," orchestrated by the Reagan administration in order to obtain the aid for the counterrevolutionaries from the U.S. Congress or to find a pretext for a direct invasion.

Asked about the current U.S.-Libyan confrontation in the Mediterranean, she replied: "Reagan is trying to prove that he is strong."

The Nicaraguan representative, who for the time being does not plan to resort to the UN Security Council for what she termed a "very delicate situation," told reporters: You should ask yourself "why now?"

Asked why Honduras agrees with Washington's report on the nature of the Nicaraguan incursion, Astorga responded that Honduras "is an occupied country...subject to pressure." The Honduran territory, she went on, "is used by the contras."

Apparently the Nicaraguan and Honduran presidents, Daniel Ortega and Jose Azcona, have held telephone conversations in the past few days. According to Astorga, the most recent conversation was held "last night or this morning."

These conversations could not have taken place if, as some reports claim, fighting has been taking place on the border between the two countries since the weekend. Astorga concluded by saying that Nicaragua will keep the Contadora Group countries informed about this "act of provocation."

Government Communique

PA252154 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2030 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Communique released by the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa on 25 March 1986]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Embassy hereby transcribes a press release issued by the Foreign Ministry today, 25 March 1986.

In view of the U.S. Government's slanderous assertions that Nicaraguan troops have invaded Honduras, the Foreign Ministry reports this: It is completely false that Nicaraguan troops have participated in an invasion against the friendly Republic of Honduras. The Honduran and Nicaraguan presidents have been in touch during these past few days, a fact that demonstrates the normal relations between the two countries.

The Nicaraguan Government rejects the U.S. Government's campaign as a gross maneuver, the sole objective of which is to have an additional $100 million in aid approved to continue murdering the Nicaraguan people and disrespecting Honduran soil.

The Reagan administration's dirty move also aims at taking attention away from the murder of William Arsenault, a Canadian Catholic priest, a few days ago in Honduras. This crime and many other outrages of the counterrevolutionary CIA mercenaries in Honduras have been reported by Msgr Luis Alfonso Santos, Santa Rosa de Copan bishop. These reports, however, have not been published by the U.S. news media.

Managua, 25 March 1986

Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa

HONDURAS DENIES SANDINIST INCURSION

PA251850 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] U.S. diplomacy has made another grave blunder. The report on an incursion by Sandinist troops in Honduran territory on Sunday turned out to be a lie. The Tegucigalpa government denied the report after a meeting last night of the Honduran National Security Council that was presided over by President Jose Azcona Hoyo.

The report was irresponsibly issued by Elliott Abrams, head of U.S. diplomacy in Latin America, in the White House. The blunder was made worse by the fact that he failed to coordinate the telling of the lie with the members of the Honduran Administration. The Honduran Armed Forces, represented by the chief of the various services, informed President Azcona that they had received absolutely no report from the border on an incursion by 1,000 Sandinist troops in Honduran territory and concluded that it was a speculative report on the part of the White House.

The Honduran Foreign Relations Secretariat will issue a statement on the matter today, government Press Secretary Lisandro Quezada reported today.

He acknowledged that this was a link in the U.S. Government's chain of efforts to obtain approval for $100 million for the counterrevolution.

Last weekend Abrams conducted very low-key visits in Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. Upon his return to Washington he attempted to justify his trip's expenses with a lie that was exposed by the Honduran Government. Other Latin American governments, including the Argentine and Brazilian Governments, had exposed several days ago other lies told by the Reagan administration.

'TERRORIST PLOT' FRUSTRATED IN REGION 2

PA260321 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The General Directorate of State Security has frustrated a terrorist plot designed by the Reagan administration to sow terror and uncertainty in Nicaragua's Region 2, at a time when the U.S. Congress was deliberating on the granting of $100 million in funds for the counterrevolution. This was reported today during a press conference called by Captains Vicente Chavez and Eric Reyes Baldizon, chief and deputy chief of the state security agency in Region 2. During the meeting with the press, the authorities presented 11 counterrevolutionaries who were arrested, including 2 FDN chieftains, Roger Perez and Antonio Guerrero Arevalo. The rebels, who intended to destroy this criminal plan, were presented by Capt Vicente Chavez. [sentence as heard]

[Begin recording] The plot sought to destabilize the Sandinist revolution and create conditions to prompt the approval of the $100 million under discussion in the U.S. Congress. The plot was exposed thanks to the dedicated efforts of the state security and Interior Ministry agents. The plan included the blowing up of economic targets, including cotton harvesting equipment, and military targets, [words indistinct] harassment. We arrested 11 members of this internal front. They operated in the area of Potosi, in local villages and nearby hamlets. [end recording]

EPS DISRUPTS CONTRA PLANS IN CHONTALES

PA242352 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 86

[By Denis Ruiz]

[Text] The EPS and the Interior Ministry have jointly dealt harsh blows to the FDN mercenary forces in the northern part of Santo Domingo, Chontales, the chief of the Interior Ministry in that area, Lieutenant Aguinaldo Castillo, has reported. Castillo explained that since last December and up to late in February of this year the mercenaries were planning to carry out operations against the military and economic targets of the area. Their plans have been completely defeated and the mercenaries have been forced deep into the Santo Domingo mountains.

The military chief added that during that period of time the counterrevolutionaries were planning to boycott the project of the ministry to build a highway running from Los Chiles to (Colinguacito), destroy the school and the equipment in the area of La Cusuca, harass the people of Santo Domingo, and pass through this area in order to enter the highway to Rama. The counterrevolutionaries were desperately planning to carry out these actions, but these plans have been disrupted by the EPS troops.

Lt Aguinaldo Castillo added that 14 persons, including 4 youths who joined the contras in an attempt to evade the Patriotic Military Service, deserted the counterrevolutionaries during this same operation. He also emphasized that the troops are fiercely fighting the enemy in the areas of San Miguel, (La Atuaya), Kuscawas, El Carrizal, and the El Redondo and El Achiote Hills, about 70 km north of Santo Domingo, Chontales.

CONTRAS KIDNAP CIVILIANS NEAR PUERTO CABEZAS

PA242353 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Two Nicaraguan civilians were kidnapped on 20 March by Somozist mercenary bands. Tomas Ruiz and Omar Castillo, workers of the People's Forest Corporation of Nicaragua, were ambushed when they were riding in a Toyota station wagon about 24 km northwest of Puerto Cabezas, in the Atlantic coastal area. The Defense Ministry reported this action today.

PROPOSAL TO HOST 1989 NONALIGNED MOVEMENT SUMMIT

PA252258 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has officially proposed that Nicaragua be the site of the ninth summit of the Nonaligned Movement, set for 1989, Foreign Ministry sources confirmed today. The note states that Nicaragua's offer was made official through a written message that President Daniel Ortega personally handed to Indian President Rajiv Gandhi, president of the Nonaligned Movement, in Stockholm.

Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera has notified the Argentine, Peruvian, and Panamanian Governments, and all the heads of state of the Nonaligned Movement member-countries of the Nicaraguan Government's decision, including details on the preparations for that meeting that Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism Director Herty Lewites made during a visit to Colombia. The note adds that all of the Nonaligned Movement member-countries have welcomed Nicaragua's invitation, pointing out that this is the first country that has offered to host the 1989 event.

BRIEFS

COFFEE HARVEST STATISTICS -- The 1985-86 coffee harvest yielded a little over 800,000 quintals of premium coffee in Nicaragua, a spokesman for the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry has reported. The official added that the drop in production was due to premature ripening of the coffee beans and the lack of manpower, but that quality has been improved, which means that prices in the international market will be better. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 86 PA]

REPORTAGE ON U.S.-LIBYAN CONFLICT IN GULF OF SIDRA

PA260258 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

["Note" read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] At daybreak Tuesday U.S. planes again violated Libya's airspace and attacked two patrol boats and areas of the city of Surt. Libyan anti-aircraft units answered the attack and fired at least six missiles at the planes that were flying over the Gulf of Sidra, but none was reported shot down. In the meantime, AFP has reported that the U.S. missile-carrying frigate Colonne of the 6th Fleet sailed today from the Spanish port of Palma de Mallorca for the Gulf of Sidra. The frigate Colonne is equipped with ultramodern electronic gear and antisubmarine and anti-aircraft armament.

The U.S. provocation began on 24 March when U.S. aircraft bombed Surt's outskirts. A short time later the Libyan news agency JANA asserted that the country's anti-aircraft defenses had shot down three of the attacking planes, which fell in the gulf's waters. Following the violation of the Libyan airspace, U.S. fighters attacked two Libyan ships, one of which was sunk. In Washington U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and White House spokesman Larry Speakes confirmed that planes from the aircraft carrier Saratoga carried out the attacks on Surt's outskirts and two Libyan boats.

Meanwhile, Libyan radio urged the entire Arab nation to rise against U.S. interests in the world in response to the violation of the Arab country's sovereignty. In Tunis, the Arab League Council said that it will give the necessary support to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in view of the constant U.S. pressures.

U.S. To Aid Honduras

PA251831 Havana International Service in Spanish 1805 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan will ask the U.S. Congress to approve $20 million in emergency military aid for Honduras, White House officials have reported. The sources added that the U.S. decision is justified because Nicaraguan troops entered 25 km inside the Honduran territory.

Those reports have been denied by the Tegucigalpa government. Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the Honduran Government, has admitted that the reports in Washington came from an official source in the United States. Quezada said: Those false reports are due exclusively to President Reagan's anxiety to get the U.S. people to support his request for $100 million to help the Somozist mercenary bands attacking Nicaragua.

U.S. 'Aggression' Scored

FL251304 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The most recent incidents in the Gulf of Sidra, 15,000 km from U.S. territory, have once again caused international public repudiation of Washington's provocative acts against Libyan sovereignty.

As of 19 March, three U.S. aircraft carriers with 240 combat planes and more than 2 dozen naval units have been located off the coast of Libya and have been holding warlike military maneuvers for the second time this year in that region.

To further accentuate the provocative nature of these maneuvers, U.S. fighter planes flew over the line that the Tripoli government claims as part of its territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra. This act forced the Libyan authorities to respond strongly by shooting down three U.S. aircraft. Two Libyan ships were sunk in the meantime. These acts marking the beginning of new confrontations are the result of Washington's aggressive policy toward Libya over the years, a policy saturated with arrogant threats and economic pressures.

In 1981 the United States imposed unilateral economic sanctions against Libya, which virtually annulled reciprocal trade. Last January, and always under the false banner of antiterrorism, the Reagan administration adopted new economic measures against the Libyan people and alluded to the possibility of military actions.

Observers have said the new chapter in the history of Yankee aggression against Libya suspiciously coincides with the campaign President Reagan is conducting in Congress, where he hopes to obtain more funds for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. However, the U.S. leader's anti-Libyan policy could provoke a true bonfire of solidarity with Libya in the Middle East, as will surely happen in Central America if the United States intervenes directly in Nicaragua.

Further Comment

PA260709 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

["Point of View" commentary, read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The holding of provocative maneuvers off the coasts of Libya, a country hundreds of kilometers from the U.S. territory, and the violation of waters that Tripoli rightfully claims as its own are the causes of the serious armed confrontation that took place (?Monday) between the United States and that northern Africa nation.

Libyan anti-aircraft defenses shot down three U.S. planes that bombed the outskirts of Surt, one of the most densely populated cities in the country. According to a report by the news agency of that Arab nation, the planes fell in the waters of the gulf. The United States claims to have sunk several Libyan ships.

No one doubts that the Pentagon prepared beforehand to attack Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's government. The large concentration of war supplies, which include 45 ships -- 3 of them aircraft carriers -- and approximately 240 U.S. Navy planes confirm that Washington pursued premeditated, warlike goals. These maneuvers -- the third held by Washington in less than 4 months -- are characterized as provocative by Al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan head of state, who had warned that if the United States violated Parallel 32 it would be regarded as a virtual declaration of war.

These war games are not isolated actions. They form part of Washington's anti-Libyan policy, which has taken on an obsessive tone during Ronald Reagan's administration.

Late last year the White House declared a commercial embargo against Tripoli, froze its funds in U.S. banks, and orchestrated a wild diplomatic and press campaign fraught with distortions and lies against Al-Qadhdhafi's government efforts. Reagan justifies his anti-Libyan campaign with charges of terrorism he has never been able to prove. However, at the bottom of the U.S. virulence lies Washington's visceral hatred of the independent policy followed by Tripoli and, above all, the support it gives to the just Palestinian cause, which is the main problem in the conflict in the Middle East. In other words, the serious situation that arose on Monday because of the Pentagon's disrespect of the sovereignty of that north African country is far from being a fortuitious event, the consequences of which escape the Yankee strategists, who apparently have forgotten the dramatic lesson of the war in Vietnam.

Aside from the tension arising from a possible prolongation of the conflict, which would turn the Mediterranean into the scene of fighting, other problems loom over the action perpetrated by the White House. A few hours ago the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dante Fascell, disclosed that President Reagan had possibly violated the War Powers Act of 1973 by not consulting Congress about the order to attack.

The resolute response of the Libyan people and Government to the violation of their sovereignty demonstrates that they are firmly determined to struggle with all forces and means against the U.S. aggressor. If the United States continues with its military actions against that Arab country, Parallel 32 may become, as Al-Qadhdhafi has said, the line of death for the U.S. forces.

ANC'S TAMBO ARRIVES, COMMENTS ON STRUGGLE

PA252146 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Oliver Tambo, president of the Executive Committee of the African National Congress [ANC] of South Africa, arrived here on Friday at the official invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee. He was welcomed at the Jose Marti Airport by Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat, as well as other Cuban leaders and diplomats from African and socialist countries, in addition to an enthusiastic group of South African university students who are studying in Cuba.

In his first statements to the press, Tambo emphasized that Cuba is present in Africa, struggling shoulder-to-shoulder with those who are fighting against the aggressive racist regime of Pretoria. The ANC president charged that U.S. aid to the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] mercenaries is further complicating that situation in southern Africa. He emphasized that in spite of the brutal aggression, the black people's morale is higher than ever in the struggle against racial oppression.

Castro Decorates Tambo

FL251354 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has presented the Playa Giron Order to Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC of South Africa during a solemn ceremony in Havana.

The order was conferred by the Cuban Council of State to the South African patriot in recognition of his untiring political struggle against the racist regime of Pretoria.

Risquet, Tambo Speak

FL251412 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Closing a ceremony expressing solidarity with the African people's struggle, Jorge Risquet, Politburo and Secretariat member, has said the Reagan administration's policy of compromise with the apartheid regime is a justification aimed at demonstrating agreement with the ideology and plans to subjugate peoples and dominate the world through violence and terror.

The ceremony also celebrated the 10th anniversary of Angola's victory. Oliver Tambo, ANC president, also spoke at the ceremony.

Visit Isle of Youth

FL260220 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The president of the ANC, Oliver Tambo, has arrived on the Isle of Youth, accompanied by Jorge Risquet. The distinguished visitor and those accompanying him were received at the Nueva Gerona Airport by Armando Manresa, member of the Central Committee and first party secretary of the special municipality.

RODRIGUEZ MEETS GUYANESE MINISTER JACKSON

FL211804 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Politburo Member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Guyanese Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, who is on an official visit to Cuba. During the meeting the two leaders discussed several aspects of the international situation, especially Central America and the Caribbean, as well as the Nonaligned Countries Movement. They also discussed the positive developments achieved in bilateral relations.

Protocol Signed; Jackson Leaves

FL211817 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Rashleigh Jackson, foreign minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, has departed for Guyana after an official 5-day visit to Cuba. Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign minister, accompanied Jackson to the Jose Marti International Airport. The two ministers spoke briefly before leaving the terminal. A few hours earlier they signed a 2-year cooperation protocol.

MALMIERCA MEETS WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL

FL221326 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Vo Dong Giang, Vietnamese vice minister of foreign affairs, have met in Havana. The two officials expressed satisfaction with the positive development of relations between Cuba and Vietnam and exchanged opinions on the international situation and the Nonaligned Countries Movement.

HAITI

STREET FIRES SET TO PROTEST MILITARY GOVERNMENT

FL251504 Bridgetown CANA in English 1448 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By John Cotter]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, March 25, CANA-Reuter -- Street fires flickered into the early hours today as young protesters vowed to bring down the six-week old government of Lieutenant General Henri Namphy. The pop of rifle and machine-gun fire echoes through the night in this capital but there were no reports of deaths or injuries. Witnesses said it appeared that police and soldiers in pick-up trucks were mainly firing into the air to enforce the curfew. Journalists who toured the more troubled districts before midnight found mostly deserted streets.

The demonstrators, including a newly formed group composed of journalists, students and young priests called the Committee to Ignite Democracy (CID) are seeking to replace the Namphy-led ruling council with an interim civilian government. We don't want any trouble, but we will escalate this campaign until the military government steps down, said one young leader of a band of men in their late teen's and twenty's setting tires, rubbish bins and packing crates on fire in a run-down district about four blocks from the National Palace. Mobs of youths set rubbish fires at scores of intersections throughout the Haitian capital tonight to press their demands for formation of a civilian government. Squads of firemen and soldiers raced through the streets to fight the burning barricades.

The fires, their pitch black smoke obscuring the sunset, ended yesterday's anti-government protests that began with a peaceful march on the palace by as many as 15,000 people, most of them young. In between, Lt Gen Henri Namphy, the president of the ruling council that took over Haiti after the flight of dictator Jean Claude Baby Doc Duvalier, went on national radio and renewed a pledge to usher the beleagured Caribbean nation toward democracy. Namphy also announced a series of ministerial appointments that were viewed by western diplomats and political observers as another in a series of bids to stem public outcry against the military-dominated rule. On Friday, the 53-year-old career soldier, who has the backing of the United States, dismissed three members of the council with past links to Duvalier or his more notorious father, Francois Papa Doc Duvalier.

Both the morning marchers and the evening fire starters said they would continue to demonstrate for the establishment of a civilian government. We don't have anything against Namphy or the military, said Pierre Antoine, a 21-year-old unemployed man, as he and friends tossed tires, empty packing crates and sodden garbage on a fire at the intersection of Rues Courbe and Tiremasse. He added, but as long as the army's man (Namphy) is in power we will never have any real free elections. We need civilians to pave the way for democracy.

Hundreds of residents poured into the streets to watch the burning fires. The capital remained under a longstanding curfew later and the mood was one of tension. There were no reports of trouble in provincial cities where the revolt that overthrew Duvalier began in earnest last November. At a blockaded bridge crossing the River Bretelle, south of the former city of Duvalierville, now called Caberet, about 50 youths said they would continue to block Highway One daily until the government bowed to their demands.

Calls for a general strike in the nation yesterday did not materialize, though managers of some smaller plants in the city reported some worker absenteeism. The absence of a general strike appeared to strengthen the new government's hand and one source close to the council said: We're taking this as a good sign. Maybe the people now realize that everything can't be accomplished in six weeks.

JAMAICA

COMMUNIST PARTY CRITICIZES SEAGA GOVERNMENT

FL251806 Bridgetown CANA in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 25, CANA -- The Communist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) has accused the main opposition group here -- the Democratic Socialist Peoples National Party (PNP) -- of being soft with the Edward Seaga Government in the face of harsh economic austerity policies. They are the ones (the PNP) who now have the... support of the majority of Jamaicans. They are the ones who therefore have to take the majority of the blame that Seaga and imperialism are still on top of us, WPJ General Secretary Dr Trevor Munroe said in a paid radio broadcast.

Munroe, however, made it clear that his party was not proposing violence or sabotage against the government. What we are saying is that the time has come and the time is now for nationwide peaceful, organised civil disobedience,... he added.

During the PNP's period in office in the 1970's the WPJ gave critical support to the government, but since its election loss in 1980 Manley has been attempting to distance his party from the Communists. The PNP has argued that misleading perceptions from WPJ's support contributed to its defeat.

Munroe in his broadcast said the PNP's strategy of all night vigils and petitions to the government to change economic policies and calls for elections without strong follow-through would not work against the rightwing Seaga government.

Constitutionally a general election is not due until late 1988, but the PNP has argued that an election legitimately should be held this year because the December 1983 poll was called on an outdated voters list and without the implementation of reforms to eliminate fraudulent voting.

Munroe advised the PNP, led by former Prime Minister Michael Manley, to drop its fear of the Seaga government and to put your confidence in the masses of the workers and the small people in Jamaica and around the world.

The WPJ's general secretary, whose party's support generally ranges between one and four per cent, was also critical of WPJ who are not out there with the people, who are not talking out enough, who are not winning enough new members to our party, who are even wondering whether the people can move Seaga.

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GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES CGT STOPPAGE ABSENTEEISM

PY261728 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINIAS in Spanish 1127 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA) -- The government has officially estimated that the CGT (General Confederation of Labor) stoppage reached an average 60.87-percent absenteeism throughout the country and compared it to the day of protest held on 24 January which, according to government estimates, was observed by 85.93 percent of the workers. Government House last night supplied information, broken down by districts and in some cases by cities, showing that absenteeism substantially diminished throughout the country in comparison with the previous strike, except for Cordoba where absenteeism reached 83.33 percent in the January stoppage and 83.72 percent in yesterday's stoppage. According to official estimates, the absenteeism in Buenos Aires reached 54 percent, compared with 82 percent in January, and in Buenos Aires Province it reached 75 percent and 83.33 percent respectively.

SELECTED DEFENSE COMPANIES TO BE NATIONALIZED

PY212003 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] (DYNA-NA) -- Some defence companies that do not have "strategic" value are on the government's list for privatization, said Growth Promotion Secretary Norberto Bertaina yesterday. Speaking at a meeting of the Professional Economic Sciences Council, Bertaina said that "not all defence businesses can be privatized, since some of them have a strategic character." He also said that "in order to reach a country in which growth is not an exception, we must clearly understand that the cause of Argentina's ills are a consequence of society and not just the State."

SEN GASS DISCUSSES NICARAGUA-HONDURAS CLASH

PY261455 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1235 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA) -- National Senator Adolfo Gass has stated that "the evolution of the Nicaraguan situation is an obvious cause for concern," proposing actions by the Contadora Group and the Contadora support Group "to confront the serious situation" arising from the deployment of Honduran troops at the Nicaraguan border and the establishment of an air bridge between the United States and Honduras.

Gass, the head of the UCR [Radical Civic Union] International Relations Commission and president of the Senate Foreign Relations Commission, told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that last night he participated in a social get-together among diplomats during which Nicaraguan officials denied an alleged Managuan aggression against Honduras. Gass stated that it is obvious that there are U.S. troops in Honduras and that their actions go beyond their mere technical presence as instructors, and that "press reports emphasize that U.S. helicopters are actually transporting Honduran troops to the borders."

Gass stated that "the Contadora Group must act on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, as it did on the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border, although the latter action was much easier." Regarding the possibilities that the UCR will issue a statement on this matter, Gass said that he "would talk with the UCR president today" and also with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo.

NUCLEAR POLICY DISCUSSED WITH BRAZILIAN GROUP

PY261720 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (NA) -- The Foreign Ministry has officially reported that the first bilateral Argentine-Brazilian meeting on nuclear policy took place here yesterday and today. This meeting was scheduled in the joint declaration signed by Presidents Alfonsin and Sarney in Iguazu last November.

The delegations were headed by Ambassador Jorge Sabato, secretary of foreign relations and culture, representing Argentina; and by Ambassador Sebastian Rego Barros, representing Brazil. The technical aspects of the meeting were coordinated by Alberto Constantini, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission; and by Rex Nazare Alves, chairman of the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission. The next meeting will take place in Brasilia in the first week of August, according to the Foreign Ministry.

CAPUTO ADVISES CAUTION ON EEC AGREEMENTS

PY232204 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Mar 86 p 13

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said yesterday agreements reached with the European Economic Community (EEC) "are to be taken prudently and not exaggeratedly" since "no definite progress was made concerning protectionism and subsidies" applied by the EEC countries in their commercial operations. On the other hand, upon arriving from Europe, Caputo pointed out that "a series of important advances" were made during meetings with EEC authorities in Brussels "which indicate possibilities."

The minister announced Argentina and the EEC reached agricultural and fishing agreements during his visit to EEC headquarters with Industry and Foreign Trade Secretary Roberto Lavagna. "Nevertheless these agreements should not blind us into forgetting other possible future developments in our relations with them," he said.

Caputo also announced they discussed Argentine participation in the Eureka technological development plan which French President Francois Mitterrand announced last year. The part Argentina plays in the Eureka plan "will give the country more possibilities to become autonomous not only in matters related to technology but to manufacture in general," he said.

The Eureka plan said Lavagna, "tends towards drawing up worldwide general production lines for the next 10 years. He said Argentina obtained "a firm commitment from France to associate Argentine companies in areas related to automation, communications, informatics and bio-technology." French and Argentine companies interested in the Eureka plan will meet over the next four months before drawing up bilateral government agreements between both countries.

According to Lavagna, the Argentine government will extend the same credit and tax system to national industry which participates in the plan as the French government applies to private and state industries involved in the Eureka plan.

Foreign Ministry Secretary Luis Maime, who also travelled on the mission, said within the 60 days "a substantial increase in fish exports can be expected" due to the agreements reached in Europe. "There may be tariff benefits not only for Argentine European joint-ventures but also for national concerns," Jaime added.

BARTHELEMY NOTES EXISTENCE OF GUERRILLA GROUPS

PY211142 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy has confirmed that subversive groups are operating in several areas of our country, taking advantage of the current crisis and jeopardizing our national security.

In statements to EL DIARIO reporters, the minister said that weapons are known to have been introduced into Bolivia from Brazil and other neighboring countries, although he did not disclose the origin of the weapons. Barthelemy charged that ultraleftist foreign terrorists have begun to organize groups of Bolivian supporters with the objective of attacking Bolivia.

He stressed that there is evidence that weapons are being stored and that they are being used by civilians. This leads to the conclusion that Bolivia is a center of subversion. "In general terms, we can say that there are political groups -- several of them working in coordination with labor leaders -- which are trying to destabilize the government by instigating subversion, taking advantage of the state of social commotion caused by the current crisis," the minister stressed.

Barthelemy explained that this situation was not caused by the new economic policy. He said the crisis began several years ago under inefficient administrations, "which failed to adopt just measures aimed at solving the problems that are now affecting the country."

The minister said that ultraleftist subversive groups are organizing their "cadres" in Bolivia, building up a conspiracy to attack the state. Although he did not reveal names or quantities, "in order not to hinder investigations," he said that it is probable that they are people trained in Cuba and Nicaragua and sponsored by the former government. He added that the invaders are not interested in the number of people infiltrated but in the quality of infiltration in the social and labor organizations to incite the adoption and execution of measures of force. "I do not want to say whether this is an urban or rural guerrilla activity. It is evident, however, that there is an accumulation of weapons that are being used by civilians with the clear intention of stimulating subversion," he said.

The minister said it is possible that the subversives may be linked with the "America" Battalion, because their procedures indicate that they may belong to it or to a similar one. Some leaders have said publicly that they seek to "liquidate" the government, which is a matter of concern since they will try to take advantage of popular protests. In reference to the demonstration organized by the Bolivian Labor Confederation to be held in the next few hours, Barthelemy said that this is an indication that "social agitation" is in progress and it will be prevented by the Interior Ministry.

Regarding subversion, the interior minister pointed out that all the organizations of the "intelligence community," that is the Armed Forces, Police, and Interior Ministry, have been alerted. He added that those security organizations are "on the trail" of the conspirators and that "when the time comes," they will be arrested and put at the disposal of the regular courts or military justice.

Asked if aid from neighboring countries will be requested for this purpose, Barthelemy said: "We will not ask for help. We have the necessary resources to fight, and we will do it. We will repeat what we did with the Nancahuazu guerrilla group." [Guerrilla band led by Che Guevara, captured by authorities in 1967]

Barthelemy added that although Bolivia under certain circumstances resorts to foreign cooperation, it maintains its status as a sovereign nation; therefore it will be capable of dealing with this new national threat.

WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, GRENADES SEIZED IN ORURO

PY270148 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Excerpt] A few minutes ago we received in the press room of Radio Panamericana a report from our correspondent in Oruro. He said that this morning a house was raided in Oruro, and grenades, ammunition, and old weapons were seized and some people arrested. The Information Ministry has announced that the Interior Ministry is going to hold a press conference at 1100 on 27 March to give more details on this matter.

COMMANDER SAYS LACK OF FUNDS GROUNDS AIR FORCE

PY212330 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Bolivian Air Force Commander General Jorge Rodriguez Bravo warned the country that the situation of the Bolivian Air Force is critical, because since 13 March all the activities of the Bolivian Air Force have been paralyzed due to lack of funds to pay for the insurance of its planes. Gen Jorge Rodriguez Bravo will better explain the situation.

[Begin recording] I confirm the situation. We have not carried out any operations since 13 March, due to difficulties in the negotiations between the executive branch and the (?Stabilization) Council on one hand, and the insurance company which demanded payments for the period June 1985-June 1986. However, we could not obtain the necessary funds and have reached a critical stage in which the insurance company informed us that the insurance coverage would be suspended as of 13 March. Despite the previous talks held, the (?Stabilization) Council took stubborn line, and the government could not pay the insurance company. As a consequence, as you have said, we have suspended all flights throughout the country. [end recording]

Air Force Commander Jorge Rodriguez also said that the populations of Beni and Pando Departments are totally neglected because the Military Air Transport (TAM) has also suspended its operations. He added that this is creating numerous problems for the inhabitants of those distant regions.

Moreover, Gen Jorge Rodriguez recognized that the country might be in danger because all the air units are grounded.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Would there be any risk now that the airplanes are not flying?

[Rodriguez] Well, we have to admit that there is a certain amount of risk which I do not dare [words indistinct] because at the moment we are experiencing a peaceful period in the continent. At least, as far as our neighbors are concerned, there has been no problem, and I hope this will continue. Otherwise we would have to find a way to operate one way or the other. [end recording]

Later, Panamericana asked the Air Force commander what he thought might be the solution to the current problem of the Bolivian Air Force.

[Begin recording] The solution would be to sit down and seriously talk to the insurance company and find a way of obtaining the insurance company's (?consent), as well as the government's, to accommodate the interest payments and be able to put the Air Force planes into operation again. [end recording]

In conclusion, he added that $6.5 million is needed to pay for the annual insurance of all the planes belonging to the Bolivian Air Force.

PROVISIONAL COVER FOR AIR ROUTES TO INTERIOR

PY251853 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Aeronautics Minister General Antonio Tovar Pierola has reported that the Lloyd Bolivian Airline [LAB] will provisionally cover the La Paz-Cobija-La Paz route until the insurance problem affecting the Bolivian Air Force [FAB] has been overcome.

This alternative was reviewed by the aeronautics minister during a meeting held with the members of the Congressional Transportation Commission to discuss the isolation affecting several towns in Eastern Bolivia owing to the suspension of the FAB services.

PRESIDENT PAZ EXPLAINS TAX REFORM LEGISLATION

PY211803 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0900 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 20 Mar (EFE) -- Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has asked his countrymen to support the tax reform bill which has been submitted to Congress for approval, stressing that the smooth running of the state apparatus depends on it. This appeal was made during a press conference held at Government Palace to explain the scope of the tax reform being implemented.

"The tax reform bill is coherent and indispensable to the current critical condition of the country, and the smooth functioning of the state depends on it," Paz said.

This draft bill creates a tax called Value Added Tax [IVA], which will be fixed at 10 percent of the sale, purchase, and rent of real estate, on services, imports, personal incomes, rural and urban properties, as well as net assets of enterprises.

On 18 March the government gave Congress the 1986 national budget, which shows a deficit of $176 million and assigns $266 million for payment of the foreign debt.

The tax reform bill and the IVA are measures demanded by the IMF as prerequisites for granting Bolivia a $57-million stand-by loan and have therefore been rejected by the labor and political sectors.

The bill is a government attempt to consolidate its economic policy approved on 29 August 1985. The government has not been able to put its projects into effect for lack of funds, and its policy, after being in effect for 7 months, has caused economic recession in the country.

Finance Minister Juan Cariaga stated that the new tax law will prevent tax evasion and will obtain funds for the state to carry out investment programs and pay better salaries.

Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada said that this plan will only be successful if it obtains popular support. The proposed reform has given rise to angry protests by the labor and peasants unions, particularly among the peasants who are not included in the social welfare system and who threaten to counterattack if Congress approves the project. Edwin Rodriguez, head of the government bloc in Congress, has recognized that the new tax law is elitist and warned about the possibility of movements among the people against this measure.

Meanwhile, Juan Lechin Oquendo, executive secretary of the powerful Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), has said that this tax increase is like a time bomb which will hurt most the Bolivian peasants, workers and members of the middle class.

President Paz Estenssoro based the need for a tax reform on increased administrative corruption, tax evasion, and the fiscal deficit which he said is permanently covered by foreign loans.

Nevertheless, even members of the government's political ally, the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), stated that this tax reform is one of the most serious impositions of the IMF that Bolivia has had to tolerate in order to obtain a stand-by loan.

PAZ ZAMORA CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

PY242324 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Jaime Paz Zamora, leader of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR], this morning granted a press conference to provide details on a trip he made through Europe and other countries. During the conference, Paz Zamora harshly criticized the current government and its current economic policy. He said that no further sacrifice can be asked from the Bolivian people.

Paz Zamora then added that despite all these problems, the government plan has been consolidated with a political stability thanks to the pact between the MNR and the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN].

Paz Zamora stated, however, that the ADN is cogoverning, because it manages 47 percent of the nation's general budget, including some city councils and other offices where it has representation.

[Begin recording] We were also invited to participate in a pact in August. We responded by saying clearly that since the ADN-MNR pact already exists and is a homogeneous pact, it is itself sufficient to govern this country. Besides this our position of support of the Bolivian people and promoting democracy did not allow us to participate in a pact with the government, but rather, called on us to be a good opposition. [end recording]

Paz Zamora justified the MNR's vote for the government on 6 August, 1985. He also justified the presence of one of its members in the government as president of the Chamber of Deputies.

MINISTER DISCUSSES ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN, CORRUPTION

PY252021 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The Interior Ministry has reported that there are obstacles blocking a head-on battle against drug trafficking. In fact, in a press conference granted this morning, Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy stated that there are judicial branch officials who, instead of cooperating with the antidrug trafficking campaign, are creating problems for the moral standards of the country.

[Begin recording] We would like to inform all the Bolivian people about aspects that are hampering the work against drug trafficking initiated by the government. As you all know, the drug trafficking problem, in addition to having tarnished the country's image abroad, is also causing very serious problems for the Bolivian society. This can be seen by the increase in the number of coca plantations in the country, and the fact of the corruption of public officials, who should be respecting the law. Finally, we can also see the fact that moral standards are changing in the country. [end recording]

The minister added that the increase in the production of coca leaves is damaging the moral and physical standards of Bolivian citizens.

DEPUTY SAYS U.S. ANTIDRUG ASSISTANCE 'MISERABLE'

PY212205 Paris AFP in Spanish 1320 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 21 Mar (AFP) -- German Gutierrez, the president of the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies governmental commission, today stated here that the U.S. Government has not fulfilled agreements on the antinarcotics struggle and on the reduction of coca plantations in Bolivia. Gutierrez said that a bilateral agreement signed in August 1983 stated that the United States would provide: $8.5-million, 57 vehicles, 4 motorboats, and three helicopters in the struggle to eradicate drug trafficking and reduce coca plantations by 4,000 hectares. Gutierrez said that to date only 20 jeeps have been received, that owing to the lack of maintenance these jeeps are not being used, and that only $2 million have been received.

In conclusion, Gutierrez stated that U.S. assistance is miserable and insufficient. It is really pitiful when compared to U.S. contributions of $2 billion to Colombia, $1 billion to Peru, $2 billion to Thailand, and $1 billion to Pakistan for identical goals. In turn, the Antinarcotics Directorate has reported that in the past 2 weeks 38 kg of cocaine were [word indistinct] and 24 people were arrested in the coca and cocaine-producing area of Chapare in central Bolivia.

STRIKING TEACHERS FACE SANCTIONS, DISMISSAL

PY251719 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Professor Ruby Oropeza, urban education undersecretary, has reported that the teacher conflict is still not solved despite the desire of most teachers to return to work. The Education Ministry is collecting reports from the interior in order to determine if classes have started there. Public schools in La Paz did not start either.

[Begin recording] The La Paz report is more encouraging. The teachers want to work and went to school this morning together with school administration personnel. The teachers' union members, however, have organized protest pickets urging teachers to leave the schools and threatening them with a union veto which would deprive them of their union rights and ruin their career if they start giving lessons or even remain in the schools. [end recording]

The urban education undersecretary has told us that those teachers who do not show up for work within the limit established by the law will risk losing their jobs.

[Begin recording] We, the Urban and Suburban Education Under Secretariats, do not wish to adopt any punishment measure against the teachers. We understand that their claims are large. They must not exaggerate, however. There are clear regulations that state that if teachers abandon work for 5 days, they can be dismissed from their jobs. We do not wish to be that extreme but the 5-day term starts today because the school year officially starts today. [end recording]

Finally the education undersecretary made an appeal to all teachers to return to their activities in the name of the defense of the education of Bolivian children and students.

COCHABAMBA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CLASH WITH POLICE

PY262144 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Relay from Cochabamba by unidentified reporter]

[Text] This is Panamericana from Cochabamba. A little before midday serious confrontations took place between the students of San Simon University and the forces of order. The students took to the streets demanding more attention by the government to the university's budget. After marching down several streets of the city, the students blocked the access bridges to the city.

In the face of this action, the forces of order started to clear the bridges and then the confrontation with the students started. According to initial reports by the students, one of them was wounded by a gunshot. The police reported that an officer and a soldier were wounded. These reports are expected to be confirmed in the next few hours.

Meanwhile, local authorities have ordered the deployment of military police to ensure normal traffic flow to and from the bridges that connect downtown with the outlying neighborhoods. Police are currently guarding the access to the main square. So far, however, no private or public motor vehicles are operating in the area.

The university students said that they will maintain an intransigent attitude until their demands for the university are heard. The authorities, in turn, said they will ensure respect for public order. So far two opposing opinions have been expressed. We expect to have more news and a report of the wounded in the next few hours.

HAITI'S FORMER POLICE CHIEF HELD IN CUSTODY

PY261440 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Itamaraty has asked the Justice Ministry to hold Colonel Albert Pierre, the former Haitian police chief, in preventive custody. Thus, Pierre will have to remain under arrest for 90 days on Fernando de Noronha Island, awaiting a decision on the extradition petition made by the government of Port-au-Prince. The Foreign Ministry has reported that Brazil will agree to the extradition only if the new Haitian Government commits itself not to sentence Col Albert Pierre to a prison term exceeding 30 years.

ITAMARATY CANCELS LIBYAN DELEGATION'S VISIT

PY261247 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] A visit by a Libyan Government delegation which was scheduled to arrive in Sao Jose dos Campos on 17 March was canceled 10 days before that date on a recommendation made by Itamaraty, which was closely following the developments between the United States and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's government. The visit's purpose was to strengthen the ties with leading Brazilian arms manufacturers. The Libyans were interested in purchasing $1-billion worth of Brazilian arms, including spare parts for Cascavel and Urutu tanks.

BRIEFS

WORKERS' ORGANIZATION FORMED -- The creation of the General Central Organization of Workers [Central General de Trabalhadores -- CGT] was the main issue of the second National Congress of the Working Class which ended last Sunday 23 in Praia Grande and was attended to by 5,000 labor union representatives. Joaquim dos Santos Andrade, of the Sao Paulo Metalworkers Union, was acclaimed CGT president for a 3-year term. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 86 p 45 PY]

BALANCE OF PAYMENT SURPLUS -- The Brazilian balance of payments for 1985 showed a surplus of $14 million. [Summary] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Mar 86 p 29 PY]

COFFEE PACT WITH COLOMBIA -- Last night, during a meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Paulo Craciano, president of the Brazilian Coffee Institute, and Jorge Cardenas, president of the Colombian Coffee Producers Federation, signed an agreement to control monthly coffee export sales and thus prevent coffee prices from dropping on the international market. This year Colombia will export 12 million 60-kg bags at an average of $2.50 per pound, while Brazil is expected to export around 14 to 14.5 million bags at an average price of $2.40 per pound. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1624 GMT 7 Mar 86 PY]

MALARIA OUTBREAK -- According to the Health Ministry, a total of 11 cases of malaria have been detected in Foz do Iguazu, Parana State, after a period of 8 years with no cases. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Mar 86 p5 PY]

SOCIAL DEMOCRACY LEADER ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PY206251 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1630 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes has repeatedly met with Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle. There are rumors about the exchange of letters at the highest levels, and that there have been strictly secret home visits. What is going on at the Foreign Ministry is still a mystery, but the rumors are numerous. Social Democracy leader Rene Abeliuk is considered a well-informed man, with good contacts at the embassies. What is his opinion about the meetings held between Ambassador Barnes and Foreign Minister del Valle? Abeliuk says he has no first-hand information, but there are some interesting points.

[Begin Abeliuk recording] Of course the government has been negotiating in an attempt to recover the system of support that the United States used to provide because this is the truth: The United Nations has voted against (?Chile). It is also attempting to go back to the silent diplomacy which was so comfortable for the dictatorship -- to be scolded privately while in public there was silence.... This new attitude is obviously an attempt by the government to go back to that original state, thus offsetting this tremendous and internally catastrophic diplomatic defeat. [end recording]

Abeliuk believes that the U.S. policy toward Chile is within the framework of its foreign policy at the world level. He also insisted that the Chilean crisis depends on international developments, but that the final solution will depend on what the Chileans themselves can do.

GOVERNMENT TO KEEP REAGAN LETTER CONFIDENTIAL

PY262210 Paris AFP in Spanish 2140 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 26 Mar (AFP) -- The Chilean Foreign Ministry today reported that the Chilean Government will keep confidential the text of a letter sent by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to President Augusto Pinochet. The letter, delivered on 20 March by U.S. Ambassador to Chile Harry Barnes, has not yet been answered.

Press reports indicated that Reagan discussed two issues in the letter: the case of Nicaragua and Washington's position on the violation of human rights reported under the military regime headed by Pinochet. A UN report this month reiterated that there has been no substantial improvement in respect for individual guarantees in Chile and the U.S. Government publicly criticized the Chilean regime, thus breaking the policy of silent pressure on the Chilean military government.

PINOCHET, DEL VALLE RECEIVE NEW PRC AMBASSADOR

PY261626 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] The Chilean Government is making efforts to improve the country's political, economic, and social standards, President Augusto Pinochet said when receiving credentials from the new PRC Ambassador (Huang Ji Kang).

The PRC diplomat spoke first, conveying to President Pinochet greetings from PRC President Li Xiannian and Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang. He stressed that the two countries are currently engaged in developing their economies and improving the standard of living of their people. Thus, he said, we need an international atmosphere of lasting peace, and we advocate negotiations as a means to finding solutions to conflicts. We also support detente and world peace. The PRC ambassador also said that the two countries can complement each other by mutually supplying raw materials, technology, and expertise.

President Pinochet welcomed the new ambassador and said that the two countries have frequently shared the same views on international affairs, such as the concern over preserving peace and security in the world. Pinochet also said that trade has been increasing gradually, and that there is interest in other areas of their relationship. The Chilean chief executive concluded by saying that the Chilean Government is currently doing its best to improve the country's political, economic, and social standards in keeping with the provisions of the Constitution. The ceremony was attended by Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle and the protocol director of the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

PINOCHET SAYS 'WORST DAYS BEHIND US'

PY260211 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic stressed a few minutes ago that the government will continue to fight poverty, to meet the country's needs, and to build a better future for Chile. The chief of state made these remarks at the Colina fair grounds on the occasion of Farmer's Day. The president also said that the worst is behind us:

[Begin Pinochet recording] The worst days are behind us, but we must be aware of the need to fight to defend what we have achieved, to maintain the existing progress. We must also remember that this effort should be shared by all.

Today, once again we must fight the demagoguery of those who make promises that they know they cannot keep. These are the same people who in the past did not hesitate to sow hatred and (?poverty among the naive). We must vigorously reject again the acts of those who deceive the workers, of those who want to plunge the country into disorder and anarchy, of those who are irresponsibly destroying public and private property and are promoting violence. We should show them our outright rejection and give them a firm lesson. Rest assured that the government will not desert you. We Chileans know how to win and have had victories, and this encourages us to overcome all obstacles. [end recording]

PANAMANIAN GENERAL'S SON FOUND DEAD

PA260104 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2348 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Authorities of the Colombian Administrative Department of Security, DAS, identified today two bullet-ridden bodies found 12 days ago as those of Ruben Dario Paredes, son of former Panamanian Armed Forces Commander Ruben Dario Paredes, and a pilot friend of Dario Paredes' son. The two Panamanians, Ruben Dario Paredes Jimenez and Cesar Absalon Rodriguez Contreras, arrived on 11 March in Medellin from Panama; 2 days later they were reported missing by the Colombian authorities.

Official sources established that the pilot, Rodriguez Contreras, was the owner of a luxury yacht seized last Friday by anti-narcotics police in the Caribbean island of San Andres. On it were more than 300 kg of cocaine.

COMMUNIQUE REPORTS RAMON BALLAESTEROS' ESCAPE

PA260833 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Mar 86 p 8

The Directorate General of Prisons hereby reports that it was established yesterday morning, 19 March, at 1030 that Juan Ramon Matta Ballaesteros, a prisoner whose extradition was pending, escaped from the Modelo National Penitentiary. Justice Minister Dr Enrique Parejo Gonzalez and the director general of prisons, Bernardo Echeverri Ossa, were notified at once of this situation, and the quickly arrived at the penitentiary, where they took immediate action.

The judge of the 9th Criminal Court, Dr Humberto Hertas Lopez, has begun the investigations. In an effort to allow the judge freedom of action, the warden of the Modelo National Penitentiary, Dr Humberto Bolivar Urbano Muncez, has been suspended, but this does not imply in any way that he is responsible for the escape.

BRIEFS

LIBERAL PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL -- Bogota -- Carlos Mauro Hoyos, liberal from Antioquia, has been elected secretary general of the Liberal Party. He replaces Guillermo Plaza, who resigned to run for a seat in the last congressional elections. [Summary] [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Mar 86 PA]

RICE SALE TO IRAN -- Bogota -- Colombia has concluded negotiations with Iran to sell it 75,000 tons of rice this year at prices ranging between 330 to 390 pesos per ton. Therefore, the transaction involves between $24 and $30 million. [Summary] [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Mar 86 PA]

LIMA MAYOR, CHAMBER PRESIDENT VIEW OIL CONTRACT

PY241326 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Six months after cancelling the previous oil contracts with the Occidental Petroleum Company, the government last night signed new contracts, but this time under Peruvian conditions. The signing ceremony thus marked a turning point in the national development program. Energy and Mines Minister Wilfredo Huayta, who presided over the ceremony, said that these contracts set the basis for the government's new petroleum policy.

Regarding the signing of these new oil contracts with Occidental Petroleum, Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes Lingan stated:

[Begin recording] We are not surprised that these contracts have been signed. Government officials have been saying all along that they were ready to sign them. We feel that the publication of draft copies of the contracts was positive. But we also feel that after the publication of these contracts, a debate should have been opened, an essentially technical debate. In this way the government would have heard the opinion of different sectors. But the discussions we expected did not take place. We wanted all citizens, and the country in general, to express their ideas to see who was right and who was wrong.

The other reason for the discussions was to find out to what extent the government was willing to accept some of the observations and criticisms made by the different parties regarding the signing of the contracts. We are now awaiting the publication of the text of the contracts so we can study them. Only then will we be able to see whether the government was in fact sufficiently flexible in accepting the observations made by the opposition. [end recording]

Luis Negreiros Criado, president of the Chamber of Deputies, today stated that the signing of the new petroleum contracts with the Occidental Petroleum is a sovereign act that complies with the country's interests.

[Begin Negreiros recording] The signing of the contracts is very important and shows the government's nationalistic and realistic policy toward foreign capital. The guidelines of the contracts leave no doubt that they will be beneficial for the country. [end recording]

UNIDENTIFIED SHIP UNLOADS CONTRABAND ARMS CACHE

PY262109 Paris AFP in Spanish 0447 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 25 Mar (AFP) — Court authorities in Piura, northern Peru, today began investigating a contraband cargo of arms, allegedly unloaded by a ship flying a Panamanian flag in the Bayovar area, 900 km north of Lima. The cargo was unloaded in the early hours of 28 February when the ship, which was not identified, claimed to have broken down in order to anchor near the Bayovar phosphate mines. Fishermen who noticed the smugglers' maneuvers warned the Navy, which then informed the police. The search in Piura Department has so far been unsuccessful, and it is assumed that the arms cache was transported to Lambayeque Department, further south.

Meanwhile, in Piura, 1,000 km north of Lima, a propaganda campaign by subversive organizations, which have painted graffiti on the walls and put up posters calling people to an armed struggle, has been observed in the last few days.

ICA PREFECT MURDERED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

PY251239 Lima Latinoamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] This is a last-minute report. The prefect of the city of Ica was murdered tonight. The prefect, Manuel Santana Chiri, was intercepted by two unidentified persons on the streets of Ica and was shot twice in the head. The attackers fled on a motorcycle. This attack took place tonight at 2100. The wounded Ica prefect was taken to the regional hospital in this city, but was dead on arrival. The Interior Ministry released a communique confirming this criminal attack on an authority from the southern city of Ica.

NEWS AGENCY MANAGER ON HAVANA MEDIA MEETING

PY261500 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Ricardo Cervera, manager of the state news agency ANDINA, has reported that presidential adviser Hugo Otero has congratulated him and supported Peruvian participation in a new international order of information.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Ricardo Cervera, what is the significance in the fact that Peru has supported the new international order of information? You have just returned from Havana where the conference took place.

[Cervera] Peru has supported from the very beginning this Nonaligned Movement pool of news agencies. Since 1975 Peru has been participating in this, year after year. Even the previous government participated in this movement, and, of course, the current government has no intention of withdrawing.

[Reporter] Was this participation in the Havana conference agreed upon directly with the chief of state, and does the president support Peru's support for this movement?

[Cervera] Well, the presidential adviser, who is also the head of the national communications system and president of the communications enterprise, has congratulated me; and he sent me a telegram in Havana supporting the Peruvian participation in the conference. Peru sponsored some resolutions calling for pluralist, participative, and nonhegemonical communications. [end recording]

10,000 RIFLES PURCHASESD FROM NORTH KOREA

PY261445 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Deputy Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla has stated that no more policemen will be laid off this year, and that the reorganization [of the police force] was concluded in the first days of March. Mantilla added that the 10,000 rifles purchased from North Korea will arrive in May 1986, and that there are no legal, financial, or technical problems in the contract.

SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MEETS RIVAPALACIO

FL260312 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0145 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- A Soviet delegation consisting of the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Yan Y. Vagris, various parliamentarians, and the Soviet ambassador to Mexico, Rostislav Sergeyev, met today with Antonio Rivapalacio, president of the Grand Commission of the Mexican Senate.

According to a report from an official spokesman, at the meeting of Soviet delegates with the Mexican legislative leader the intention of the two countries to maintain their good bilateral relations was stressed. Rivapalacio expressed the importance of the recently activated parliamentary diplomacy, which makes it possible to judge which objectives can be achieved for the benefit of the people. Vagris referred to the call issued recently by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet to the U.S. Congress for the immediate cessation of nuclear arms tests, and he referred to his country's offer not to carry out atomic tests after 31 March unless the United States resumes testing. The Soviet parliamentarian stressed the support given by the president of the Supreme Soviet, Mikhail Gorbachev, to the antinuclear program of Argentina, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden, and Greece.

GATT NEGOTIATIONS TO BE COMPLETED IN 1986

FL202132 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1935 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Before this year ends, Mexico will have completed negotiations for entering GATT, it has been announced by Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development Hector Hernandez Cervantes. The official added that with improved access for Mexican exports, Mexican manufacturing activities would increase considerably.

He explained that protectionism, the deterioration in trade relations, and the low growth rate of the economies of industrialized nations has caused the largest part of the cost of the world crisis to fall on the debtor nations. He warned that the Mexican economic system has given all it can, and that it can be asked to do only what it is capable of doing. The official acknowledged that the social costs that Mexico has paid have largely been passed on to its salaried workers, whose standard of living has dropped substantially.

SILVA HERZOG CALLS FOR SHARING DEBT RESPONSIBILITY

FL252322 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2149 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] San Jose, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Jesus Silva Herzog has called for establishing shared responsibility to find a solution to the foreign debt problem. After describing the world economic situation as unpromising for developing countries and stating that domestically the prevailing economic conditions are unbearable, he said that the responsibility for the foreign debt must be assumed by debtor and creditor nations, the international commercial banks, and multilateral financial organizations.

There is no doubt that everyone's contribution is urgently needed. It is imperative that everyone share the responsibility and sacrifice of the peoples of Latin America, Silva Herzog indicated. He added that, to date, the weight of the solution has fallen on the debtor countries. He added that the best-known present formulas maintain in essence the same scheme that was formulated at the beginning of the crisis and insist on recommending what many of our societies have been doing for some time.

Addressing the plenum of governors of the Inter-American Development Bank that is in its second day of meetings in this city, the Mexican secretary of finance and public credit said that, on balance, the work of the bank has been positive without a doubt. He mentioned, as part of its development, the modernization of its operational structure, which has been adapted to the needs of the member countries, the strengthening of its multilateral character, and its financial capacity.

The support the bank has given to rural financing on a large scale, the support given housing and tourism, energy, and industrial development, the support given to the regional process of integration, and the scrupulous financial management of the bank have all demonstrated the flexibility and capacity of the bank to respond. It is necessary to strengthen and take advantage of this potential to better confront the difficult circumstances under which Latin America is evolving, the Mexican secretary said.

Silva Herzog described the present international contest as economically complicated and having precarious political stability. He said the present moment is one of the most critical in recent history. The world economic situation has become unpromising for developing countries. The disparity and low growth rate of the industrialized nations, an insufficient drop in the real interest rates, pronounced drops in the price of basic products, unstable exchange rates, and the intensification of protectionist barriers are all elements that encourage uncertainty and block our efforts at adjustment and development. With regard to the elements that make the domestic situation unbearable, I cite negative gross product growth rates, dropping per capita income, growing unemployment, decreasing investment, and the unfavorable exchange rate.

Returns From IDB Meeting

FL261452 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0459 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog arrived in Mexico City tonight from the 27th annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He expressed satisfaction at the response given to a message sent by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to the participants of the IDB meeting.

Interviewed at the Mexico City airport, Silva Herzog said that due to falling oil prices, the international community needs to be more understanding of Latin America's economic problems. Because of this, he added, the message presented Tuesday by the Mexican delegation in San Jose, Costa Rica, stressed the need for more support to overcome the economic crisis and continue development in Latin America.

Silva Herzog was accompanied by Bank of Mexico Director Miguel Mancera Aguavo, Mexican bank president Gustavo Petricciolí, Foreign Credit Finance Director Jose Angel Gurria, and Social Communications Director Rafael Resendiz of the Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretariat.

DEFENSE FORCES COMMUNIQUE ON ECONOMIC SITUATION

PA221448 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 pp 1, C 8

[Communique issued by the Defense Forces of Panama; date not given]

[Text] Whereas:

1. Panama has just gone through a delicate moment during which circumstantial adjustments having important social and economic significance were made.

2. All the responsible forces of Panama have the civic and moral obligation to state their opinion regarding this most important national moment.

3. There is a difficult and complex international situation that directly and adversely affects our country's economic and financial development.

4. The main, and also the most grave, social and economic problem that the government must tackle is the difficulty in generating jobs for the men and women of our country.

5. Until not long ago there were three positions and attitudes regarding this situation:

A. one position called for yielding to the plans drafted by international financial organizations disregarding our situation;

B. a second position was to leave things as they were and to struggle to the end for the status quo; and

C. the third was an extremist position that upheld a simplistic watchword: Do not pay the debt.

6. Those positions and attitudes tackled the current economic and financial problems forgetting that this generation of Panamanians has a sacred commitment to its honorable history as well as a binding obligation to future generations to arrive at the years 1997, 1998, and 1999 with a solid, dignified, and united republic at the lowest possible social cost.

7. Consequently, faced with these inoperative alternatives, some national groups tried to force the march through a road that goes against ~~the final obj~~ective of Panamanians.

It is timely to state:

1. That in spite of the economic, social, and political difficulties Panama is experiencing, there is, without a doubt, the will not to lower the banners of Torrijism, whose final objective is to deliver a free, independent, and prosperous fatherland without the presence of any foreign force to a new Panamanian generation in 1999.

2. That the seriousness of the moment must not be hidden from the people, because not only has there been economic pressure, but also the results of that pressure have aimed at dealing a death blow to the Torrijist objective for 1999.

3. That some Panamanians, because of personal interests, ignorance, or naivety, have played a dangerous game being directed from beyond our borders and intended to divide Panamanians, thus facilitating the elimination of the popular achievements secured by the resolution of 1968.

4. That we, as military people, have learned that sometimes it is better to yield a war zone to be able to defend truly strategic points and to engage in intelligent initiatives.

5. That no one should be misled into believing that the decisions adopted by the government team at this moment mean that the Torrijist principles have been completely abandoned. On the contrary, all Panamanians can be certain that in spite of the difficult decisions adopted at this moment, there is the firm and undestructible will to culminate the liberating decolonization program bequeathed to us by General Torrijos. The government team has acted fully aware of its historic responsibilities.

6. That the Defense Forces have renewed the strictly national historic commitment they assumed in 1968, the commitment to remain by our people in their most just and noble struggle of a domestic and international nature. Finally, while reiterating our commitments to the best interests of the Panamanian people, we want to appeal with fondness to our people -- the workers, peasants, students, professionals, and businessmen committed to national development -- to close ranks to face the problems that our country is confronting, and to search for a general economic recovery intelligently, with creative imagination and calmness, and setting aside economic and political interests.

Signed:

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief
Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of the general staff
Colonel Marcos Justini Fernandez, deputy chief of staff
Colonel Alberto Purcell Dussaive, G-5 of Staff
Colonel Elias Castillo Figueroa, G-3 of Staff
Colonel Leonidas Macias, police force
Lieutenant Colonel Lorenzo Purcell, Panamanian Air Force
Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Armijo, National Navy
Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Garibaldo, G-1 of Staff
Lieutenant Colonel Eric Aguilera, National Penitentiary
Lieutenant Colonels Rogelio Alva and Guillermo Wong, Defense and Security Commission
Lieutenant Colonel Julio Ow Young, Fort Jose D. Espinar
Colonel Angel Mina Justiniani, Economic Resources

EXPLOSIVES FOUND AT VERAGUAS RADIO STATION

PA261046 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The board of directors of the Mares, Inc. enterprise that owns Radio Belen issued a communique yesterday denouncing the fact that on the evening of Saturday, 22 March, approximately 40 sticks of dynamite with wires and gasoline were placed in the transmitters of this radio station. Most of the owners of the station are private businessmen.

The authors of this terrorist action left a message written in red on manila paper that said "Companeros, this is the beginning for the pro-Yankees," signed by FAL [not further identified], an organization that is presumably claiming credit for this action of death and terror, the owners of Radio Belen said.

This terrorist action, the communique added, would have been the first act of terrorism to take place in Veraguas Province and was "coldly prepared and with sufficient time by the criminals so that it would have created terror and panic throughout the community of Los Algarrobos, and therefore, Veraguas Province." The communique adds that the terrorists have sinister goals, according to the S-2 experts of the Defense Forces, as they used chlorate and sulphur, substances that, in a chemical reaction with the gasoline and the 300-foot long wires, would have caused a tremendous explosion.

The terrorists used electrical cable that, according to reports, were lost at the work site of the La Fortuna hydroelectric dam in Chiriqui. They tied these cables to a high-tension post of the IRHE [Institute for Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] and along with the chemicals and the gasoline, placed them throughout the transmitters and the base of the station's antenna where there is a high-voltage box, the communique adds. "There they installed other packets of explosives in order to complete the large chain of terror and death, in an area where peasants and poor people live. Thanks to the strange odors of the explosives, the operator of the transmitters was able to detect the sinister plan and the S2 members and the board of directors of Radio Belen immediately went into action."

The communique points out that Radio Belen has been on the air 2 years and it "promotes respect for human rights within the framework of freedom, equality and fraternity," in addition to "defending the democratic system as the traditional system for our people and private enterprise as the supporting partner in the socio-economic development of our country."

Mares, Inc., which owns Radio Belen, also requested in the communique that the government and the authorities "carry out a very thorough investigation and protect private property. It also denounces before public opinion this outrageous action, because it will not silence the freedom and the rights provided for by the laws and the National Constitution."

The Panamanian people and the people of Veraguas, who have solid democratic traditions, are not receptive to this vandalism that promotes social disintegration, and the station strongly reiterates its stand of being the free voice of the country with positive answers for the community. The communique also urges the Attorney General and the Minister of Government and Justice to carry out a broad investigation to determine the material and intellectual authors of this criminal action.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO UNITED STATES CONFIRMED

PA262130 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Mar 86 p A 4

[From the "Names and Events" column]

[Text] It has been confirmed that next week President Eric Arturo Delvalle will travel to the United States on an official visit. In Washington President Delvalle will meet with President Reagan and with other top U.S. Government officials. President Delvalle will also meet with congressional leaders and with prominent figures of the World Bank and the IMF.

COSTA RICA

MONGE CONSIDERS U.S. AID TO HONDURAS 'NORMAL'

PA261333 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1212 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez has said that it is only normal that the United States should help Honduras in the face of the recent incident with Nicaragua. Monge said that Honduras is a U.S. ally, and therefore it is logical that the United States will help that country in facing an attack. He added that it is possible that the incident between Nicaragua and Honduras will have an influence on the debates at the U.S. Senate for the approval of President Ronald Reagan's request for $100 million for the rebels struggling against the Managua regime. The report added: Nicaragua began an arms buildup in 1979, and because of this aggressive attitude its neighbors have felt threatened. However, Monge said despite the incidents in recent hours there is no danger yet of a war between the countries in the region. I still believe that good sense will prevail above anything else, to prevent a war that would bring more horror and pain to Central America, he added.

MINISTER VISITS TAIWAN IN SEARCH OF INVESTORS

PA261511 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Danilo Jimenez Veiga, Costa Rican minister of the presidency, departed for Taiwan this week in search of new investors for the country. Jimenez Veiga was invited to visit by the Government of the Republic of China. He will remain in China until 15 April. Official spokesmen said that the Costa Rican minister of the presidency will meet with Chinese businessmen with the intention of convincing them to invest in Costa Rica.

EL SALVADOR

DEFENSE OFFICIAL VIEWS U.S. CONTRA AID VOTE

PA262207 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Mar 86 pp 5, 11

[Text] Colonel Reynaldo Lopez Nuila, the deputy public security minister, has described as unfortunate the vote in the U.S. House of Representatives rejecting aid for freedom fighters in Nicaragua. The officer was interviewed yesterday by EL DIARIO DE HOY to probe the viewpoint of a Defense Ministry leader on the voting, which has brought about much disappointment among those who see the ineludible beginning of a solution to the problem of terror and subversion in Central America in the downfall of the Sandinist regime.

Col Lopez Nuila said that we must accept the contradictions of U.S. democracy. The officer reiterated that as long as the Sandinists are in Nicaragua, the democracies and fates of Latin American peoples are in danger and "we are all aware of this; however, we must wait for initiatives; as the President said, not everything has been lost." Col Lopez Nuila also commented on reports from abroad stating that Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos' kidnappers have demanded an estimated 18 million colones, 85 jailed terrorists, and some war ammunition and supplies. He said: "All that is speculation, there is nothing specific." Asked whether the Army knows anything about the kidnapper's health, the deputy minister said that in fact "through communications with his relatives, we know that he is in good health, but nothing more." He denied that Col Avalos has been seen by the International Red Cross or other organizations claiming to defend human rights. The officer added: "That is what the terrorists talk about; they demand respect for human rights and war agreements, but are the first ones to violate them, because they do not allow anyone to see kidnappees, who are not prisoners of war, but just kidnappees."

REBELS SUPPORT LIBYAN REACTION TO U.S. ATTACKS

PA262033 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1917 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command on 25 March 1986; read by announcer]

[Text] On 24 March U.S. aircraft carried out the gravest aggressions staged during the past several years when they attacked the coasts of the Gulf of Sidra and the city of Surt, in the territory of the people's republic of Libya. [as heard]. The Pentagon had been planning these attacks by the U.S. Navy for several weeks. The White House and the U.S. Government's propaganda machinery first linked Libya with acts of terrorism that occurred in Europe. More recently they claimed a presumed right that the United States has to navigate in all waters according to that country's whim and convenience by declaring them international waters.

Thus, the United States's military attacks were premediated. The actions are purely criminal and sheer banditry and an assault on international law which jeopardizes coexistence between nations and regional and world peace.

The FMLN therefore condemns and emphatically expresses its outrage over this criminal action by the U.S. Government. At the same time, it states that one of its ends is to exacerbate the U.S. people's [word indistinct] and distract its attention from Reagan's aggressive actions in Central America, which most of the U.S. people condemn at a time when hysterical efforts are being made to legalize the aid to the mercenaries that attack Nicaragua from neighboring countries. The FMLN hereby expresses its solidarity with the Libyan people and leaders, who are facing this new imperialist aggression firmly and honorably. We are certain that the imperialist adventure will be defeated and that the cause of justice, independence, sovereignty, and self-determination of peoples will prevail. Libya's reaction to the imperialist aggression is legitimate. It upholds the banner of all the people's honor.

RADIO VENCEREMOS' OVERVIEW OF RECENT FMLN ACTIONS

PA260014 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] We will now recount the FMLN's military actions during the week that ended yesterday, Sunday. We report that we inflicted 154 casualties on the puppet army's troops during the past week. We repeat, 154 casualties. Of these 154 casualties, 77 were caused by mines of various types.

During the week we seized the following war material: 56 rifles. We repeat 56 rifles were seized from the puppet army and its paramilitary forces during the week that ended yesterday. We also seized an M-79 grenade launcher, 200 clips for M-2 rifles, 51 military kits, (?20,000) cartridges for the rifles seized, and a TRT-77 military communications radio, as well as other military supplies. During the week, our guerrilla forces, our urban commands in San Salvador, carried out the important sabotage action at the General Directorate of Statistics and Census in broad daylight and right in downtown San Salvador. Also during the week, guerrillas harassed and attacked enemy positions in San Ramon, Ciudad Delgado, and in other places in San Salvador's outskirts.

Meanwhile, sabotage actions against electrical power equipment were carried out in areas such as Apopa, Nejapa, Soyapango, and, of course, in the other departments throughout the country.

During the week we continued with our practice of attrition to wear out enemy operations, primarily in Guazapa and Chalatenango, and we highlight the seizure of many rifles in Jerusalen and the incursion in Santiago Nonualco, also in La Paz Department, where we increased the guerrilla victories of the FMLN in the past few days. [Words indistinct] last week, we continue to apply correctly and thoroughly, the strategic line issued by our general command of spreading the people's war to the entire territory.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO VIEWS TRIP TO VENEZUELA, PUERTO RICO

PA242258 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] President Vinicio Cerezo returned this afternoon to Guatemala after a working visit to Venezuela and Puerto Rico, automatically resuming his presidential post. The white and blue military airplane carrying Cerezo was accompanied by two Air Force combat planes. It landed at approximately 1700. A ceremony was held at the central ramp. After 1 week out of the country, Cerezo made brief statements and said that he would give a broad report on his trip next Tuesday:

[Begin recording] [Cerezo] This has been a very successful trip, and I am very satisfied. Guatemala is now appreciated and loved throughout the world. I was welcomed and applauded by all of the people, and they have felt the affection and love of the Guatemalan people, who have opened their arms to everyone.

[Unidentified reporter] Is Puerto Rico giving Guatemala any aid at this time?

[Cerezo] This was a good opportunity to broaden relations in the Caribbean, and we have spoken with Jamaica and other countries to initiate a process in this regard. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Francisco Villagran de Leon reported on what happened during the trip, especially in regard to the Central American parliament:

[Begin recording] [Villagran] We received an extraordinary welcome in Venezuela. Venezuela demonstrated its warm appreciation for Guatemala, the president was well received, and this makes us feel very encouraged.

[Unidentified reporter] Any reaction to Guatemala's position [words indistinct]? It has been said that Guatemala does not support Ronald Reagan's government in [words indistinct].

[Villagran] Venezuela firmly supports the Contadora Group, and Guatemala agrees with that position. I must say that the U.S. Congress' vote has been interpreted by Guatemala as a positive vote, and it has also been interpreted as an attitude of encouragement for Nicaragua, so that Nicaragua can open a dialogue with its political opposition groups and respond positively to this U.S. Government attitude. The U.S. Congress has supported the negotiation process, and I believe that Nicaragua should respond positively. This is my position.

[Reporter] Any comments regarding Venezuela's reaction to the Central American parliament?

[Villagran] The idea of the parliament was very well received in Venezuela and I am very pleased and encouraged.

Venezuela has even offered technical assistance for the structuring of the parliament, and the Andean Pact has even approached the president to offer its full support in the formation of the parliament and establishment of its internal mechanisms. [end recording]

FINANCE MINISTRY CREATES DEPUTY MINISTER POST

PA202359 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Today government bureaucracy continues to grow without control in the Christian Democratic regime with the creation of the post of a third deputy minister in the field of public finance. The Executive Branch has issued a resolution creating the new post of deputy minister in a ministry where there are already two second deputy ministers. In the above-mentioned resolution, there are vague references to the duties assigned to the new official, stating that these duties will be geared to taking care of nongovernment organizations and other sectors associated with popular participation with productive goals and of social benefit in accordance with the duties that may be detailed through a ministerial resolution. The reference to a social benefit as a result of the creation of this new deputy minister seems to be incongruent, unless social benefit is taken to mean the use of greater resources of budget allocations to maintain an already costly bureaucracy while the people need action.

URNG LEADER BLAMES GOVERNMENT FOR DISAPPEARANCES

PA262226 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1405 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Setubal (Portugal), 26 Mar (EFE) -- A Guatemalan rebel leader, who for security reasons identified himself only as "Carlos," today blamed the Guatemalan Government for the disappearance of at least 38,000 people. "Carlos," a leader of the URNG, made this statement in Setubal, 40 km south of Lisbon, during an event commemorating the fifth anniversary of the assassination of Salvadoran Bishop Msgr Oscar Romero. The rebel spokesman stressed the important role played by the Catholic Church in "creating awareness among the Guatemalan population, particularly among the Indians." The guerrilla leader said several priests have been persecuted and that at least 15 priests and 3 nuns have been killed by the government. "Carlos" denied the existence of an organized communist party in Guatemala, because the majority of the communists have been killed by the Army". [quotation marks as received] He added that his group has popular support, as well as the support of the 46,000 Guatemalan refugees in Mexico. "Carlos," who will travel to Madrid today, also said that despite the scarcities of all kinds the Guatemalan people are currently facing, "the dictatorship will soon be overthrown." [sentence as received]

HONDURAS

REPORTAGE ON CLASHES NEAR NICARAGUAN BORDER

U.S. Helicopters Airlift Troops

PA261612 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1508 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- This morning U.S. and Honduran helicopters airlifted an infantry battalion and all of its support gear to the country's east, bordering with Nicaragua, it was officially reported.

The troops are under orders to dislodge from Honduran territory the Sandinist soldiers who according to intelligence reports entered the country on Sunday under the pretext that they were pursuing counterrevolutionaries. The airlift of troops and equipment began at 0600 (1200 GMT) on board UH-1H, UH-18, CH-47 (Chinook) helicopters. So far 24 helicopters have been used to mobilize the combat troops to the front lines, where since yesterday soldiers have been posted at observation points.

The American helicopters are not gunships, though the Honduran ones were seen to be carrying missiles and machine guns. These were positioned in strategic locations to protect the aerial unit.

The Americans are under express orders not to get involved in any confrontation between the Hondurans and Nicaraguans. Their sole mission is to transport personnel to safe places from which the Hondurans will use their own means to reach the combat area. The orders issued to the Americans were given by U.S. Southern Command head General John Galvin, who was in Tegucigalpa yesterday. Galvin evaluated the Hondurans' logistical requirements in anticipation of President Reagan's approval of $20 million in emergency military assistance for the Honduran Army. The Hondurans possess the most sophisticated and professional Army in Central America, but they still have mobilization problems that will be overcome once concrete negotiations currently underway with the United States for the purchase of Hercules C-130 troops transport aircraft are completed.

The Armed Forces has promised to keep the citizenry informed on developments on the border with Nicaragua in the event any clashes break out. However, the Foreign Secretariat announced that contacts have been made with the Nicaraguan Government, which was asked to order its troops to evacuate Honduras to avoid military confrontations.

Unofficial reports confirmed that the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries ambushed some 1,500 Sandinist troops that were pursuing them and that they constantly harassed these troops, inflicting many casualties on them, but this report has not been officially confirmed.

'Contra' Defends Efforts

PA261650 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1540 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] In our news department we have been receiving telephone calls from several people who identify themselves as Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. One of them has told Radio America that if they were not fighting and holding back the Sandinists on the border, the Sandinists would already be quite deep inside Honduran territory. Here is what this person who said he is a counterrevolutionary and who has arrived from border stated:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] A person coming from the Honduran-Nicaraguan border and who said he is a counterrevolutionary said that if it were not for them, the Sandinists would already have entered more kilometers inside Honduran territory. Go ahead sir.

[Contra] Listen, I am always listening to criticism of the contras. Those criticisms are unjustified, because if it were not for our presence and our fight against the communist enemy the Sandinists would already be causing problems and disorders in Honduras. We are the cannon fodder. We are enduring those attacks from them. We struggle for democracy not only in Nicaragua but in Central America. What I want to make clear is that while the contras go hungry, suffer from the cold, and are badly equipped, we are protecting Honduran territory from inside Nicaraguan territory, because we wage our battles from there against the communist forces that are pursuing us or that want to cause problems for the Hondurans on the border.

Therefore, the opinions about us should be more just. We [words indistinct] in serious problems, but we just enter for a few minutes and then we return to Nicaraguan territory because our struggle is in Nicaraguan territory and not in Honduran territory.

[Reporter] What do you have to say about international reports that say that the Sandinists and the forces that fight against them have suffered approximately 150 casualties?

[Contra] There must be deaths on both sides. Remember that the only thing that the Sandinists have is a large number of men who have been forced into service and who are not expert or skilled in using weapons. However, we are experts in guerrilla warfare. We are sure that we are going to win. With or without the support of the $100 million, we will continue the struggle. Now then, we hope that Ronald Reagan will go down in history because when [number indistinct] months are left of his term, we know that he will give all his military support so that we can expel the communists from Nicaragua [words indistinct] history will judge this.

[Reporter] How many Sandinists have died in that sector?

[Contra] You know that we cannot count the dead. It is a fight in open fields and they pick up their dead and take them away. We give an estimate of the number of dead because each side picks up the dead. They try to make sure that none of their dead are left so that they can say that the dead are only on our side. We have attacked them hard and thousands of the young militiamen, boys who do not even know how to use a rifle and who are just cannon fodder, have died.

[Reporter] When you say that the dead are taken to Nicaragua, does this not mean that they are not under siege and they can return to Nicaragua?

[Contra] Well, they prepare the sieges but we break through them and that is when we ambush them.

[Reporter] When did the battles in the areas of Esparol Grande, Las Vegas, and other sectors begin?

[Contra] Well, they have periodically taken place, like right now when we are preventing them from entering Honduran territory [as heard] so that we will not be involved there either.

[Reporter] What is your nom de guerre?

[Contra] I cannot tell you. I am not authorized to do this. I was listening to the radio, and since I was passing by I wanted to explain things.

[Reporter] Does this mean that you are returning to the battlefront?

[Contra] Of course, I wish that you would visit the fronts if the Honduran authorities would permit it because [words indistinct]. The civilians do not understand the military tactics, and that is why there is confusion. [end recording]

Honduran Soldiers Wounded

PA262012 Paris AFP in Spanish 1900 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Mar (AFP) -- An officer and several soldiers of the Honduran Army were wounded during a clash with Sandinist troops in Honduran territory, a press correspondent in the eastern city of Danli, El Paraiso Department, bordering with Nicaragua, has told AFP.

The informer said that yesterday afternoon the wounded soldiers, including an officer identified as Captain Rolando Antonio Serrano Nunez, were transferred [words indistinct] based in Cucuyagua, Copan, in western Honduras, which was transferred to the area last February to relieve the 4th Battalion based in the Atlantic port of La Ceiba.

Approximately 10 days ago the Honduran troops in that area were reinforced with those of the 6th Battalion stationed in Ojo de Agua, El Paraiso. Reliable sources reported that two combat planes overflew the area this morning, noting that the area in conflict includes Llamales, 20 km from the Nicaraguan border where a contra base operates, Arenales, Espanol Grande, and Las Vegas, located 6 and 8 km from the border and approximately 200 km east of Tegucigalpa.

Meanwhile, another reliable source told AFP in this capital that the Sandinist troops that entered Honduras "are withdrawing."

On Tuesday it was learned in Danli that approximately 900 Nicaraguan soldiers had been encircled by rebel forces and Honduran troops in the Arenales sector, approximately 6 km from the border. However, last night Commander Joaquin Cuadra, the Nicaraguan deputy defense minister, denied those reports, stressing that not a single Sandinist soldier had crossed the border. The Honduran sources added that "the intensity of the fighting has reduced considerably since the clashes began on 22 March."

Meanwhile, a diplomatic source told AFP that General John Galvin, chief of the U.S. Southern Command stationed in Panama, met yesterday with General Humberto Regalado, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, and maintains permanent contact with the Honduran Armed Forces staff.

According to our informer, the transfer of new Honduran troops to the area in conflict began this morning in 18 helicopters of the U.S. Air Force stationed in the Palmerola base, in the country's central region. The source added that today, at 0800, a fleet of 10 UH-1 helicopters with a capacity for 30 people overflew the capital and headed for El Paraiso. The source said that the U.S. Air Force will transport between 500 and 600 Honduran soldiers to El Paraiso. The source told AFP that Gen Galvin "is coordinating all the operations" of the transport of Honduran troops to El Paraiso.

The Palmerola base, the permanent headquarters of the U.S. forces stationed in Honduras since the end of 1982, is also under the Southern Command.

Other sources indicated that the Sandinist Army's casualties were "very high," letting it be understood that they are more than 100, the number mentioned yesterday by persons coming from the area of conflict. Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan Government categorically denied the alleged incursion into Honduras by the troops of the EPS, and it asked the Contadora Group to send a mission to oversee the border region to prevent the worsening of the situation.

Hundreds of Casualties Reported

PA262144 Panama City in Spanish 2023 GMT 26 Mar 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- According to rebel sources, civilians, and military men at the border area, Sandinist soldiers and contras are engaged in heavy clashes in Honduran territory. Hundreds of casualties have been inflicted.

The clashes have occurred east of Cifuentes, in the eastern department on El Paraiso, on the border with Nicaragua. Cifuentes residents and Honduran military men stationed nearby today indicated that "heavy clashes are occurring in the Arenales, Espanol Grande, El Espanolito, and Capire areas."

None of the sources, however, has confirmed having seen Sandinist soldiers in Honduran territory.

It has been said that the noise of the battle is constantly increasing. Automatic rifle and light machine-gun fire is heard, in addition to medium-caliber mortars.

The "Maritza Zeledon" and "Fermin Espinoza" rebel task forces, composed of about 4,000 FDN men, were in the Capire area this weekend. The clashes have been taking place since Sunday, when a rebel contingent entered Honduran territory while being chased by about 1,500 Sandinist soldiers. The rebels, through radio communication, obtained the support of the forces in Capire. They have surrounded the Sandinists, who are in a difficult situation.

Meanwhile, Nicaragua's regular forces are facing a bottleneck [tienen un "tapon"] of Honduran Army soldiers who had been deployed since last Friday to reinforce two battalions operating in the zone. According to rebel spokesmen in Tegucigalpa, "casualties on both sides are heavy, and it is believed that the anti-Sandinists have suffered more than 100 deaths and approximately 200 injuries."

Honduran soldiers and peasants have told the press that hundreds of birds of prey can be seen in the combat areas. More Honduran troops were deployed yesterday and today to Cifuentes with instructions to protect the civilian population and repel any Sandinist attack. The Honduran deployment has been carried out to prevent the Sandinists from trying to send other contingents into Honduran territory to rescue their comrades who are facing problems, according to official reports.

The Honduran Foreign Ministry has made efforts to get the Nicaraguan Government to order the withdrawal of its troops. The Sandinist government insists that its troops have not crossed the border line; however, it says that strong clashes with rebel forces are taking place near the border, which has only been crossed by the fleeing contras.

Armed Forces News Conference

PA262330 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2256 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] This is a last-minute report from the Armed Forces' public relations office. This is journalist Miriam Mercado reporting. About 10 minutes ago Major Jose Alberto Arguello of the Army public relations office presented two Sandinist prisoners captured in Honduran territory. The following is Maj Arguello during this event:

[Begin recording] [Arguello] The Honduran Armed Forces have (?found) [words indistinct] evidence pointing to the warmongering invasion of the Nicaraguan EPS. After this statement, an Armed Forces communique will be issued, where broad information will be given about the current situation. These two men whom you now see -- keeping in mind that we have signed the Geneva Treaty -- are EPS soldiers captured by the 7th Infantry Battalion in our territory, about 15 km inside our border. The evidence includes a diary that the men have been carrying.

It says this: After fighting for 8 days we arrived at [words indistinct]. (?There is the BLI) [unconventional warfare battalion]. On Wednesday, 12 March, we left to bring rations from the command post. On Thursday, 13 March, we returned to the Coco River with the rations. On Friday, 14 March, we left on a mission for El Amate and weighed anchor at 1240. On 15 March we left Parpar at 0600 and arrived at Chilamate at 1430. On Sunday, 16 March, we sat down and rested on a hill. On Monday, 17 March, we walked the whole day and arrived at Yamal and there we were given rations. On Tuesday 18 March, we left Yamal to go deep into Honduran territory. On Wednesday, 19 March, we continued into Honduran territory. At 1030 on Thursday, 20 March, we arrived at a camp, but they [not further identified] fled without fighting.

As you can see, gentlemen journalists of the local and international press, this is clear evidence of the warmongering action of the EPS, which has carried out similar actions for several years. We have been suffering and putting up with the Sandinists from beyond the Coco River. We have signed the Geneva Treaty, and we will ask the prisoners four questions only. We are going to ask the first Sandinist soldier the four questions. Tell me your full name.

[Hernandez] My full name.
[Arguello] Yes.
[Hernandez] My name is Salomon Hernandez Mayorga.
[Arguello] Your serial number?
[Hernandez] 0171880.
[Arguello] To what unit of the Sandinist Peoples Army do you belong?
[Hernandez] To the Francisco Estrada.
[Arguello] Where were you captured?
[Hernandez] Approximately 15 km inside Honduran territory.
[Arguello] We are going to ask the other soldier his name.
[Sandino] Carlos Alberto Sandino.
[Arguello] Your serial number?
[Sandino] 050023.
[Arguello] To what unit of the EPS do you belong?
[Sandino] To the Francisco Estrada unit.
[Arguello] Where were you captured?
[Sandino] I was captured in Honduran territory [words indistinct]
[Arguello] Newsmen this is all. We thank you very much for being here. [end recording]

[Mercado] You have just listened to Maj Jorge Alberto Arguello, director of the Armed Forces Public Relations Office, who presented today to local and foreign newsmen two EPS prisoners, who were identified as Salomon Hernandez Mayorga and Carlos Alberto Sandino. Next, Companero Walter Padilla will read a communique urgently issued today by the Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] Official communique: The Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate, based on the communique issued by the government for the local and international public opinion, reports:

1. Since Monday, 17 March, the EPS has been making incursions into Honduran territory along the eastern border sector.

2. To control the situation, the Honduran Armed Forces have deployed a task force comprised of Army units with the mission of halting the EPS incursions and immediately restoring the border that legally exists between Honduras and Nicaragua.

3. Likewise, it has been necessary to provide the security required by the civilian population in the zone, to prevent the abuses common and characteristic of the aggressive troops.

4. So far no casualties have been reported on the part of our troops. There has only been the machine-gunning of a helicopter of our Air Force, which was on a reconnaissance mission approximately 12 km inside our territory, which was damaged by the invading troops.

5. It is important to mention the fact that located in the area where the Sandinists have invaded our territory is the route used in the past by the subversive contingent under the command of Dr Jose Maria Reyes Mata. This confirms that the main objective of this operation is to give protection to the penetration of subversive groups trained in Cuba and Nicaragua, to destabilize the constitutional and democratic Government of Honduras.

6. For obvious reasons, the Armed Forces did not report to local and international public opinion the seriousness of the situation in order to maintain the calm and tranquillity of the people during this period of rest and spiritual retreat. However, we reiterate once again that our soldiers are fully complying with their sacred mission to defend our sovereignty and national territory.

[Signed] Tegucigalpa, 26 March 1986; Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate. [end recording]

Commentary Views Border Problem

PA261448 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1245 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Station commentary: "A Vacillating Government"]

[Text] As a result of the recent developments at the border with Nicaragua, news reports originated in Washington claiming that the Sandinists launched a 1,500-troop invasion in eastern Honduras' Olancho Department, where the EPS reportedly violated Honduras' territorial integrity. It strikes us as odd that all these reports came out of Washington at the precise moment that the president of the United States was asking the Senate to approve $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution that is attempting to overthrow Managua's Sandinist regime.

Initially, the Honduran Government, as was expected, denied that the invasion had taken place. The Honduran Government's press secretary not only denied the report, which was gaining scandalous notoriety in Washington, but attributed it to the White House's desperate attempts to move the U.S. senators to approve the aid for the Nicaraguan contras. This aid seems to have become a question of honor, a life-or-death matter, for President Reagan. However, in view of Washington's insistence, it seems that the Honduran Government had no other option but than to admit that our territory had in effect been transgressed by 1,500 Sandinist troops in the eastern Olancho Department. The night before, the Honduran National Security Council had met. The foreign secretary irresponsibly and hesistantly stated that it appeared -- though this was not confirmed -- that Sandinist soldiers were fighting against the counterrevolutionaries inside Honduran territory.

The government came up with new surprises yesterday. First, journalist Lisandro Quezada told us that there had been no invasion and that proof of this was the tranquillity that prevailed throughout the nation and in all of its institutions, including the Armed Forces. This showed, he said, that Honduras was not involved in any situation of tension or war with Nicaragua. Moments later, however, the government's press secretary read a communique handed to him by Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras, in which the government acknowledged that Sandinist troops had attacked our territory, adding that due to the terrain in Olancho, the government had requested Air Force assistance from the United States to deploy Honduran troops to the area to safeguard Honduras' territorial integrity.

The cables from Washington also indicated that Honduras had asked the U.S. Government for $20 million to deal with the crisis with Nicaragua. Once again the Honduran Government's press secretary said yesterday that President Azcona had not requested that aid. Nonetheless, minutes later he confirmed that the assistance had indeed been requested from the United States. The cables from Washington said that Azcona had personally asked President Reagan for $20 million in military aid.

The day ended amidst denials and subsequent confirmations. It was a day full of contradictions that proved that the guidelines are coming from abroad and that after Washington said we had been invaded, here, after a number of denials, the report of an invasion was also confirmed.

The truth is that the entire border area between Honduras and Nicaragua is an area of permanent conflict between the Sandinists and the counterrevolutionaries. Our country's border with Nicaragua has become a no-man's land. On that border the contras and the Sandinists fight every day while no one in Honduras claims sovereignty over that territory, which should not be the scene of foreign troop conflicts.

The contras live there. By now, that is an irrefutable fact. From there they attack Nicaragua. The Sandinists reject those attacks, entering Honduras to pursue the contras when they retreat or flee, destroying crops and farm areas as they advance, taking with them the fowl and domestic animals owned by the Honduran villagers and rural inhabitants. The entire border strip in El Paraiso Department is victimized as a result of the skirmishes that the counterrevolutionaries and Sandinists stage daily. So much so that those clashes have become routine in the lives of our border population. It makes area residents anxious, but not so the Army. The Hondurans in the area have been requesting the deployment of Honduran Army troops to the area to safeguard their safety and property for a long time. However, thus far our Army has failed to answer that call. Why? Perhaps because it is difficult for our Army to control the counterrevolutionaries, as it would also be difficult to prevent the Sandinists from firing at Honduras, when they are being attacked by the contras from this side of the border. This is the real situation at the border.

All of Honduras' border territory has become a no-man's-land because the Honduran Army has not wanted to fulfill its constitutional duty in that area, which is to defend and safekeep Honduras' territorial integrity to ensure that no foreign troops, force, or military unit -- regardless of its ideology -- be there on a permanent basis. While this is happening, while the contras are there attacking Nicaraguan territory and the Sandinists responding, justifying these incursions into Honduras by saying that they are pursuing the counterrevolutionaries; while all of this is going on the Honduran Government's hesitation to deny situations that have not taken place only helps increase tension among the Honduran people.

Meanwhile, those Hondurans who lived in Las Trojes, Arenales, Espanol Grande, El Porvenir, and other areas have all had to flee deeper into Honduran territory, because there is no one, no Honduran Army, to safeguard their safety and property. The Honduran side of the border has become a no-man's-land. Clashes between the contras and Sandinists take place there every day. The Hondurans have no control over that area.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR SAYS RELATIONS 'NORMAL'

PA261932 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1840 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] A few minutes ago Nicaraguan Ambassador to Honduras Danilo Abud Vivas arrived at the Foreign Secretariat. He met with Roberto Suazo Tome, who is in charge of the Foreign Secretariat affairs. The U.S. Embassy's political counselor also went to the Honduran Foreign Secretariat. Here is a report by Francisco Medina.

[Medina] Radio America's press department obtained an exclusive interview this morning with Nicaraguan Ambassador Danilo Abud Vivas and U.S. Embassy Political Counselor Theodore Wilkinson, who held separate meetings this morning with Roberto Suazo Tome, who has been placed in charge of the Foreign Secretariat affairs during Holy Week. In view of the recent events on the border which have caused tension in both Nicaragua and Honduras, we interviewed the Nicaraguan ambassador after his meeting with Suazo Tome. The Nicaraguan ambassador delivered to Suazo Tome a document requesting the intervention of the Contadora Group and other international organizations so they will investigate the situation on the border with Honduras.

[Begin recording] [Medina] How would you describe the Honduran-Nicaraguan relations at this time?

[Abud Vivas] We continue to maintain that relations are normal, and some communications have been exchanged between the two presidents in recent days which shows the normal situation and the flow of communications that exists. This shows that the political means and the civilized path of dialogue are the ideal way to resolve any disagreement and to find a solution to the Central American problem.

[Medina] Is there no danger that hostilities will break out, leading to a conflict provoked by foreign elements?

[Abud Vivas] We have always been concerned that the counterrevolution, in its desperate attempt to achieve some legality or to show that it still exists even though it is experiencing a clear military defeat, would want to create artificial incidents that will give Nicaragua the image of the aggressor, that it would provoke a conflict between both armies, or that it would provoke a confrontation with U.S. troops because it is known that they are involved in military exercises in El Paraiso Department [words indistinct]. Therefore, any spark of this nature could light a conflict that we are sure neither the Honduran nor the Nicaraguan Government desire.

[Medina] Have you received confirmation from your government that as part of the efforts that your government is carrying out to stop the advance of the counterrevolutionaries, it has entered Honduran territory to continue pursuing them?

[Abud Vivas] The fact that the Nicaraguan foreign minister is addressing a letter to the Honduran foreign secretary to emphasize that it is false that such an incursion has taken place reaffirms that reality. I want to make it clear that the EPS carries out large military offensives against the infiltration attempts by the counterrevolutionaries but those offensives are carried out inside Nicaraguan territory.

[Medina] Are you constantly in touch with your government, and might you be summoned to your country to report on what is really taking place here?

[Abud Vivas] I have been in permanent touch with my government. I have not been summoned for consultations. That is the usual practice in some difficult circumstances. I might be traveling today, but strictly for the purpose of Holy Week vacation. [end recording]

ARMY CONFIRMS EPS DAMAGED HELICOPTER 17 MARCH

PA262319 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2254 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Army today reported the machine-gunning by Sandinist forces of an Air Force helicopter last Monday in the eastern part of the country, on the border with Nicaragua. An official bulletin points out that the helicopter was seriously damaged by the "hostile fire" in Cifuentes, where it was carrying out a reconnaissance mission, but that none of the crew members were injured. The same communique points out that the Sandinists have been in the national territory since last Monday, the 17th, and that proof of this is the machine-gunning of the helicopter approximately 20 km from the border with Nicaragua. To repell these actions -- the Army bulletin said -- a task force has been formed by several units with sufficient capacity to return the invading troops to their side of the border.

NICARAGUA PLEDGES TO PAY ELECTRICITY DEBT

PA261748 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1412 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Despite the prevailing tense relations with Honduras, Nicaragua intends to pay its debt to the Honduran Government, which totals more than 138 million lempiras, owed for the purchase of electrical energy from Honduras. The Sandinists owe $15 million, and it will pay off that debt within the next several days, the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE) manager Jack Arevalo Fuentes said. If Nicaragua does not pay in dollars, it will pay by selling us products that we are currently importing from other countries. Douglas Membreno has this report.

[Begin recording] [Arevalo] The ambassador of Nicaragua came to see us. He said the Nicaraguan Government has every intention of paying because it wants us to continue selling energy to Nicaragua.

[Membreno] How much does Nicaragua owe? We heard 15 million, then 90 million [currency not specified].

[Arevalo] The debt is $14 million to the ENEE and $55 million that it owes to the country. We are also in a position to report that yesterday Panama expressed an interest in purchasing energy from Honduras. We will probably begin selling it to that country within a week or two.

[Membreno] Do you believe Nicaragua is planning to pay its debt to Honduras, when we a are in a crisis due to the incursion by Nicaraguan troops in our territory?

[Arevalo] Yes. They were emphatic in stressing their interest in canceling that debt.

[Membreno] What will Honduras do if Nicaragua fails to pay?

[Arevalo] I do not know. The economy secretary would have to decide. [end recording]

Despite the current crisis, Nicaragua will be able to pay its debt by exchanging a list of 50 items made in Nicaragua.

[Begin Arevalo recording] I am really not familiar with that. I presume that clorox, cotton, and bathroom fixtures, would be on that list. However, I believe it is a list of 50 products that Honduras is currently purchasing abroad with dollars. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT MESSAGE TO HONDURAS DENIES INCURSION

PA270024 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2349 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 26 Mar (DPA) -- The Nicaraguan Government today sent an informative message to the Honduran Government saying that EPS soldiers have not invaded Honduran territory, a Managua Foreign Ministry official has revealed. Reports obtained by DPA point out that the Honduran Government a few days ago sent a note to the Sandinist government asking for an explanation of "alleged infiltrations" by Nicaraguan soldiers in Honduras. The Nicaraguan note sent to Tegucigalpa seems to have clarified doubts regarding the infiltrations, which are considered by Managua to be a U.S. tactic regarding the actions of the "Somozist mercenaries" financed by the Ronald Reagan administration and part of the counterrevolutionary project.

Sources in the northern city of Ocotal said that the urban sectors of the border region appear to be calm, but a report from the Defense Ministry points out that in the rural zones the Army is pursuing approximately 600 mercenaries who a few days ago entered the country in a "propagandist campaign" in favor of the $100 million that President Reagan is seeking in the Senate in order to continue financing the contras.

In the Nicaraguan capital, the central government is on a week's vacation, and there is a similar situation in Honduras, where it was reported that President Jose Azcona has left Tegucigalpa on a trip with his family. Other sources point out that the "infiltrations" were a "game" played by the Reagan administration to give the Honduran Government $20 million and to deploy U.S. transportation units with Honduran forces to the Nicaraguan border to create "artificial" tension and promote the "campaign for the $100 million," which is being discussed at the U.S. Senate.

Cuadra Denies Claims

PA261952 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1826 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander Joaquin Cuadra, chief of staff of the Sandinist Army, has challenged the U.S. Government to provide proof that Sandinist soldiers invaded Honduran territory.

A high-ranking Foreign Ministry source today told ACAN-EFE that Sandinist troops are near the Honduran border but not crossing the borderline in order to repel rebel forces that are still in Nicaragua. Washington and Tegucigalpa authorities have charged that approximately 1,500 Sandinist soldiers entered Honduran territory on Sunday in pursuit of the anti-Sandinist fighters.

"If what Reagan said were true, at some moment the White House or the Tegucigalpa government would have to present proof that they are holding Nicaraguan soldiers," Cuadra said. The military chief admitted that the battles with the rebels are taking place in several locations on the border with Honduras, but he denied that Nicaraguan troops have entered Honduran territory. Cuadra explained that approximately 600 contras who infiltrated Nicaragua from Honduras on 11 March have been repelled by the Sandinist combatants. "Those counterrevolutionaries are surrounded and desperate to return to their sanctuary," the high-ranking Sandinist chief said. Cuadra said that the main battles are being waged in the area of Teotecacinte in Nueva Segovia Department, "in Nicaraguan territory." He added that the EPS High Command has deployed special troops to the border with Honduras to repel the attacks by the counterrevolutionaries who have been divided into 100 small groups.

A high-ranking Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry source who asked not to be identified told ACAN-EFE today that the Nicaraguan troops are at the border but without crossing the borderline. The source added that the Sandinist soldiers "are hitting" the contras when they try to enter the national territory and that they are also fighting to drive back to Honduras the antigovernment forces that are still inside Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto yesterday sent a letter to the eight foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups asking for the creation and installation of a commission to supervise and oversee the border between the two countries. D'Escoto decided to request the creation of the supervision commission, similar to the one that is being created between Nicaraguan and Costa Rica, "in view of the grave situation of tension that is being sought on the border between Honduras and Nicaragua." Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera said that one of the functions of that commission would be, if the Tegucigalpa government would agree, to "confirm" that "at no time" have the Sandinist troops entered Honduran territory. "If Honduras wants peace, it will surely place no obstacles to the creation of the commission," Talavera said. The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela) and the Support Group(Argentina, Peru, Brazil, and Uruguay) will meet with the Central American foreign ministers in Panama in early April to discuss the regional crisis.

As of noon, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry had not issued any comment on the reports from Tegucigalpa that the Honduran Army has deployed more troops to the border with Nicaragua.

ARDE LEADER ON SANDINIST INCURSION IN HONDURAS

PA262144 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Mar 86 p D-12

[Article by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] The incursion of Sandinist troops into Honduras is an indication that the Nicaraguan totalitarian regime is confirming its aggressiveness and its expansionist intentions, Alvaro Altamirano, ARDE leader, said yesterday.

Altamirano said: "There will be no peace in Central America as long as the problem in Nicaragua is unresolved, and now with this new aggression, the Contadora Group has the opportunity to do something."

ARDE's representative said that Nicaragua's behavior on the Honduran border shows that the Sandinists have no intention of cooperating to resolve the crisis in the region.

With regard to Congress' refusal to approve the aid for $100 million for the counterrevolutionaries that was requested by Reagan, Altamirano said: "The congressmen have shown a total lack of knowledge of the problem in Central America and of the Marxist-Leninist expansionism in the region." He said that the results of the vote in Congress reveal an internal opposition to Reagan, not a rejection of an international policy.

Altamirano said that the Latin American presidents are not supporting President Reagan in his attempts to aid the contras. "This is a cowardly attitude, because we definitely cannot live on dollars and vote with rubles," he said.

With regard to the conflict that emerged in the Gulf of Sidra between the United States and Libya, Altamirano said that Mu'ammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhdhafi is provoking the United States in order to gain support from the Arab world. However, he added, "no one falls for the games of the top leader of terrorism."

COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNS U.S. MANEUVERS AGAINST LIBYA

PA270106 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0032 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Official government communique issued in Managua on 26 March; read by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Angela Zaballos -- live]

[Text] The Nicaragua Government categorically condemns the military maneuvers that the U.S. Government ordered near the continental territory of Libya and the incursions by U.S. planes in the Gulf of Sidra. This represents an unjustifiable and irresponsible action of intimidation and provocation.

These maneuvers and other subversive actions are a clear demonstration of force, which is prohibited by the UN Charter. It is a provocation against Libya. This has produced military incidents including unjustified attacks on human beings in Libyan territory. This represents a threat to international peace and security. Nicaragua condemns the threat and the use of force against Libya and demands the cessation of military provocations and actions by the United States and recalls that all states have the obligation to resort to peaceful means to resolve controversies.

COMPARISON OF ORTEGA REACTION TO HOUSE DEFEAT OF AID

Managua International Service in Spanish at 0217 GMT on 23 March broadcasts a recording of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's remarks following the vote in the U.S. House of Representatives defeating the requested $100 million for the anti-Sandinists. The Managua International version has been compared to the Managua Domestic Service 0300 GMT 21 March version published on page P 6 of the 21 March Latin America DAILY REPORT and found to provide the following variation:

Page P 7, paragraph one reads:

However, we are unquestionably waging the main battle here, in our country, by defeating the mercenary forces through the people's mobilization to defend the revolution militarily. This is the main battle.

We maintain our readiness to achieve peaceful solutions to the problems, resorting also to bilateral agreements like the ones we have been promoting [word indistinct] in Costa Rica. This effort by Nicaragua, this heroism which the Nicaraguan people have maintained all of these years that we have been subjected to the U.S. (?warmongering) policy, has received international support from the peoples of the world and in particular from the Latin American people, from the Latin American governments, which have opposed the policy of terrorism of the U.S. Administration against Nicaragua, and from the U.S. people themselves.

In other words, there is a continental mobilization -- in Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, and in Canada. Through this mobilization, the peoples are demanding respect for Nicaragua and an end to this aggressive policy, to this policy of terrorism.

[Reporter] Commander, how would you characterize the fact that several congressmen, even Republicans, voted no?

[Ortega] We do not want to issue an opinion on the hues in the discussions at the U.S. Congress, because this would be to begin to discuss and accept an illegal action. We reject the discussions themselves [words indistinct]. Therefore, we reject the policy of disrespect for the international legal system which is promoted when one nation that maintains relations with another nation -- in this case the United States -- which has relations with Nicaragua; and there is a Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington and a U.S. Embassy in Managua. [sentence as heard] The United States has signed the UN Charter and is therefore bound to respect the relations among states and to always seek a peaceful solution through dialogue to problems and conflicts.

This, then, is what we are referring to. Basically, it [not further identified] is violating those agreements which it has agreed to when the U.S. President pursues a terrorist policy against Nicaragua and discussions are held at the U.S. Congress about whether this terrorist policy is the most adequate -- the way President Reagan is implementing it -- or if some other type of policy has to be implemented. That is what is being discussed now: how to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution, how to better attack the Nicaraguan revolution. That is why we cannot accept this discussion and believe that we must demand respect for the international legal order, respect for the U.S. people, and respect for the Latin American peoples.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] of the Sandinist people's revolution [words indistinct].

[Ortega] Well, we are threatened. Reagan has already talked about using troops. This is an open escalation [escalada]. This would be the beginning of the Vietamization of the conflict. We must remember that in Vietnam they began with (?a dozen) advisers and ended up with half a million soldiers on Vietnamese territory. Therefore, Reagan's proposal is the beginning of the Vietnamization of the conflict. That is, we are faced with a great danger, and we have been pointing it out all these years becaues I have said that Mr Reagan has looked for a way to make progress in order to end up by invading Nicaragua and, of course, provoking bloodshed of great magnitude. It is true that the blood that will be spilled will be that of the Nicaraguan people defending this revolution. However, the blood of those who invade this territory will also be spilled.

[Reporter] The day this action [word indistinct], what specific actions will the government adopt at the national and international level?

[Ortega] Well, we have been taking steps jointly to defend the country. To this end we have been forming the reserve brigades in the country's Pacific area, the 3d Region, the 4th Region, in various regions, [words indistinct], and in all of the country's regions. One has to be prepared. The people are prepared to face and defeat an eventual intervention by U.S. troops.

[Reporter] Is there any special [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] We must bear in mind, as I said, that this is only the first vote. According to their system, another vote must follow. In other words, the process has barely begun; the process has not ended. We think that Latin America will continue to defend a Latin Americanist position in favor of peace and against intervention. The Latin American people have been defending this position, and this has also been defended by many Latin American leaders. It is important to underscore that the aggression continues against our country and our people. This makes it necessary for us to not only pursue a greater mobilization in the military sector -- due to the military aggression -- but also a greater and more organized economic sector, because the aggression imposes more costs on us than the crisis. [words indistinct] with all the deployment of U.S. Army forces in Honduran territory.

Consequently, we are forced to [words indistinct], double productivity and increase discipline, to increase the people's awareness and strengthen the Nicaraguan people's spirit of sacrifice and patriotism. We must do this with specific actions in favor of the revolution's military defense and production. Thus, we must also (?increase) our production because our enemies think that we are tired and that their military actions will totally deteriorate the Nicaraguan economy. We must solve the economic crisis, because this is a national problem, everybody is involved. Therefore, everybody -- all the government officials and members of the FSLN, the working people, the patriotic forces of the country that are identified with various political parties but have sincere feelings for their homeland and the defense of our national unity -- must join and support the military defense of the revolution, and work with efficiency and discipline to increase our productivity.

[Reporter] Commander, I would like to know about the loss resulting from the [word indistinct] attack?

[Ortega] What they are doing [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Is there any report on the attack on that plant?

[Ortega] These attacks that the mercenary forces have been carrying out are directed at creating an impact on international public opinion to give the impression that they are a powerful force, that they are hurting the revolution, and in this way deny a fact: that they are forces that are being defeated. The fact that they are being defeated explains why the U.S. President is making a bigger commitment to back these forces. This explains why the U.S. President has decided to use military might. Later he will send more advisers. But even with these advisers, the mercenary forces will not be able to win. Then he is going to say: Well, we are going to have to resort to U.S. troops, to U.S. soldiers, to the Marines; thinking that with them he will be able to achieve victory. He does not realize that even if he uses U.S. troops, U.S. soldiers and Marines, he is going to be defeated again.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] So long as the U.S. President and those advising him maintain the line of a military resolution of the situation in Central America -- the case of Nicaragua and the case of El Salvador -- we will be facing the threat of an invasion by U.S. Forces in these countries.

[Reporter] Referring to the statements issued by certain bishops on the debate, does the government intend to continue carrying out some kind of dialogue with the church?

[Ortega] We have clearly stated our willingness to normalize relations with the church. In sum, we have reasserted and will continue to reassert that there is no persecution against the church in Nicaragua, and there never will be. In the political sector, yes. Whoever opposes the revolution in the political sector will receive a reply -- also political -- from the revolution. Of course, certain members of the church leadership have been supporting Reagan's plan and have lent themselves to Reagan's plan by going to the United States to slander the revolution. Well, they are losing all their moral and religious authority before the people, because they have not been -- in any way -- on the people's side. Likewise, they are not defending the Nicaraguan people's human rights in any way. Instead, they have chosen to side with those who violate the Nicaraguan people's human rights.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] These arbitrary, illegal, and antijuridic actions of the United States, of the U.S. Government, of the U.S. President, and of the U.S. Congress [words indistinct] and at the same time (?ignore) the process available at the International Court of Justice. We are awaiting the ruling of the court, which will probably be before the 30th [no month given]. We already know some of the dispositions of the court, and now we are waiting the final ruling on the [words indistinct] our country.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Would the Sandinist Government be prepared to negotiate again with Brooklyn Rivera if he were to request a renewal of the discussions?

[Ortega] All sorts of efforts are being made to slander and to wage campaigns against Nicaragua by those who want to justify their terrorist policy against Nicaragua. Today there is the case of the Miskitos. Tomorrow they will say we have committed crimes like those denounced by Bishop Vega in the United States, that three priests have been murdered here. He denied the charge here, but the truth is that the harm was already done.

There is also talk about human rights violations in our country. There is talk that we support subversion throughout Latin America. In his speech President Reagan mentioned a lot of countries that have rejected what he said, but his lie has stuck in the minds of the people of the United States.

We have faced many campaigns, and they persist in their warmongering campaign against our country. We maintain our policy in favor of a peaceful solution. There is an amnesty in effect. Everybody knows about it, and Nicaraguans have already done so. [Words indistinct] and hundreds of Nicaraguan have benefited from the amnesty.

The very leaders of some Miskito organizations who were involved in counterrevolutionary activities have taken the amnesty. The road to amnesty [words indistinct] which is being developed by our government in favor of autonomy, thus winning over [words indistinct]. [end recording] (providing additional passages)

BRIEFS

SHIP BUILT, DELIVERED -- The Gustavo Orozco, the first of three ships to be built at El Diamante Shipyard in Grenada, has been completed and was christened today. The Dutch ambassador officially delivered the ship to Transportation Minister William Ramirez. The Netherlands supplied the material and the technical advisers used to build the ship. The ship will cover the Granada-San Carlos-Granada route. It has room for 256 passengers and can carry from 20 to 25 tons of cargo. It will start servicing Granada and San Carlos residents in the next few days at a speed of 8 knots. Its goal is to cover the route in 14 hours. [Summary] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Mar 86 PA]

PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -- The counterrevolutionary mercenaries have inflicted serious damage on the country's health structure, which means the national economy has been affected. Over $122 million was lost in the 1981-85 period in damage to a hospital and to 58 health centers which were destroyed, the deputy health minister has resorted. The official added that through their criminal actions, the contras kidnapped 33 Health Ministry staff members; during the same period of time 41 were killed and 11 wounded. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 86 PA]

HONDURAS SENDS TROOPS TO NICARAGUA BORDER

PA270244 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Special report by Consuelo Sandoval for Radio Havana, from Managua]

[Text] Less than 24 hours after denying an alleged Sandinist incursion into their territory, the Honduran authorities today ordered troops to the border with Nicaragua. The alleged incursion of Nicaraguan troops into the neighbor country was originally reported by U.S. sources, a version that Lisandro Quezada, Honduran Presidential House spokesman, denied yesterday. Today the same spokesman reported that the Sandinist Peoples Army, EPS, had gone into an area of Olancho Department, located in the central eastern part of the country, next to the Nicaraguan border. When asked about the change, Quezada explained that the sector where the alleged incursion took place is very far and no official report had been received.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Government has denied the alleged incursion into Honduran territory. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry issued an official communique in which it says that the presidents of Honduras and Nicaragua have held conversations during the past few days, which is proof that relations between the two countries are normal. The communique also says that the Nicaraguan Government denounces the U.S. Government campaign as a crude maneuver whose main objective is to obtain the approval of the $100 million for the counterrevolutionaries to continue murdering the Nicaraguan people and violating Honduran territory.

ETHIOPIAN POLITBURO MEMBER ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL191138 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 19 Mar 86

[Text] Hailu Yemanu, industry minister and member of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia Politburo, arrived in Havana a few hours ago on a official and friendly visit. Marcos Portales, basic industry minister [as heard], and Lester Rodriguez, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, met the Ethiopian minister at the Jose Marti International Airport.

Meets Risquet

FL220108 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the party Central Committee, today has received Hailu Yemanu, member of the Politburo of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and minister of industry of that brother country. The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere, as corresponds to the relations between the two countries. Matters related to Central America were discussed, and Nicaragua's decision to defend its revolutionary process was stressed. The situation in southern Africa was also discussed, and Risquet reiterated Cuba's and Angola's willingness to withdraw Cuban internationalist troops when the Namibian people achieve true independence and apartheid ceases to exist.

OECS 1985 ECONOMIC REPORT PRESENTED

FL261500 Bridgetown CANA in English 2341 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, March 24, CANA -- The economies of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) had a mixed performance during the first nine months of last year, according to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) based here.

In a comparative review of the nine-month period with 1984, the bank cited improvements in tourism and traditional exports counter-balanced by a worsening of the area's fiscal position and declining output by the manufacturing sector. The increased activity in the tourist sector which prevailed in the first half of 1985 continued into the third quarter so that over the nine-month period visitor arrivals to the area totalled 308,893, some 12.5 per cent more than in the comparable period of 1984, the report said.

The largest increases were recorded in Grenada (38 percent) and St Kitts and Nevis (14.5 percent), while Antigua & Barbuda, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and St Lucia all experienced significant increases. The ECCB serves Antigua-Barbuda, Grenada, St Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, Dominica, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

In general, the report said there had been a marked improvement in the performance of traditional export crops -- bananas, cocoa, and nutmegs -- with higher production levels and earnings. Sugar was the lone exception. Exports of bananas from the windward islands rose quite significantly by some 10.5 per cent to 119,720 tonnes. Much of this increase was however the result of the improved performance of St Lucian and Vincentian producers who registered increases of 16 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. The value of these exports rose even more significantly by some 25.9 per cent to 126 million dollars (one EC dollar= 37 cents U.S.), reflecting the more favourable unit prices which on average increased by 14 per cent compared with the corresponding period of 1984, the report added.

There were also significant improvements in relation to exports of cocoa and nutmegs from Grenada, which, in terms of volumes increased by 10.3 per cent and 27.7 per cent respectively. These crops also fetched higher prices in their respective markets and consequently their export values increased by 11.9 per cent and 28.7 per cent respectively relative to those of the comparable period of 1984.

With regard to manufacturing, the ECCB said export data pointed to an overall reduction in output levels, linked to the ongoing slowdown in Caribbean Community (Caricom) trade. St Vincent-made galvanized sheets and clothing made in Antigua, St Lucia, and St Kitts were particularly hard hit. There were, however, some positive signs in the export performance of soaps from Dominica and flour from St Vincent and the Grenadines, each of these commodities showing substantial increases when compared with their corresponding values in 1984, the report said.

The report went on: The review period witnessed a worsening of the areas fiscal position as reflected in an increased rate of overall public sector borrowing from the banking system. This deterioration in finances was even more evident when deposits of the public sector for the period netted against loans. On a territorial basis, however, some countries did show significant improvements, though these were not sufficient to reverse the overall declining trend.

DOMINICA

CIPS MEETING IN APRIL TO REVIEW CBI

FL260134 Bridgetown CANA in English 2203 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 25, CANA -- Dominica will next month host a meeting of the Caribbean Investment Promotion Service (CIPS), to follow up last week's St Vincent Conference, according to Dominica's Trade Minister, Charles Maynard.

Maynard, back home from Kingstown, says trade officials of Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECs) and Belize will from April 11 continue looking at arrangements under which the United States gives assistance in the training of people involved in industry and promotion. He said the CIPS meetings will assist the region in taking greater advantage of the U.S.-supported Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and attract investors by helping promoters to understand better the workings of the CBI.

GRENADA

BRIZAN REVIEWS PROGRESS OF FIRST YEAR

FL252108 Bridgetown CANA in English 2011 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 25, CANA -- The Grenada Government has reported progress in reducing what it calls a mountain of social and economic problems left by the island's near five-year flirtation with Marxism. But it has warned the 92,000 strong population against expecting all the troubles to be resolved in its five-year term that started December 1984.

The story of the government's success is told by Agriculture and Tourism Minister George Brizan in a booklet which described the first year in power as a testing time for all. While reporting improvements in areas such as agriculture, tourism, education, health, fisheries, electricity, housing and transport, the government admitted there is still a long way to go to achieve all social and economic targets. The expectations of people are undoubtedly high, Brizan commented. But the point must be made that resources are scarce and the mountain of problems that the new government has inherited cannot be levelled away into a plain of perfect order and full prosperity in one year. We Grenadians need to be more positive and less negative. We must emphasize our strengths and build upon them, rather than glorify our weaknesses and suffocate in them.

The New National Party (NNP) Government took office in Grenada's first elections since Maurice Bishop's leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) staged a coup. Bishop was killed October 19, 1983 in palace coup, but the junta was quickly unseated in a U.S.-led invasion of the island.

The U.S. has pumped several million dollars in economic development aid into the island, where high unemployment and inadequate infrastructure are among the problems.

In the agricultural sector, the number one foreign exchange earner for Grenada, there have been major increases in prices paid to farmers for products such as cocoa and nutmegs following years of low productivity, the booklet noted.

The price of green nutmegs rose from 30 to 60 cents per pound (one EC dollar -- 37 cents U.S.), whole mace from 2 dollars to 2.53 dollars per pound, and dry cocoa from 1.20 to 1.40 dollars per pound. The government also built or repaired 33 miles of farm roads in many rural areas where these crops are grown mainly for export. It secured 1.8 million dollars in assistance to farmers under a European Development Fund (EDF) administered scheme that helps stabilize prices after losses due mainly to uncertainty on the world market.

The Washington-based World Bank also approved a U.S. 5 million dollar loan to help finance a major agricultural rehabilitation and diversification project, with assistance from an Israeli firm, Agridev, which has helped a number of east Caribbean islands. The wages of agricultural workers were also increased from 7.50 to 8.50 EC dollars per day for females, and from 8.50 to 10.50 dollars for males with promises of a further increase in the next year but tied to productivity.

On tourism, the booklet says that cruise ship business was on the upswing, stay-over visitor arrivals showing sizeable hikes, as well as hotels being constructed and renovated. There were 175 cruise ship calls in 1985, compared with 60 in the previous year. Work started on five hotel projects but approval had been given to several other schemes. Tourist sites have been upgraded with assistance from the organisation of American States (OAS), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Brizan also reported that the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank approved a U.S. 6 million dollar loan to Trinidad and Tobago businessman Issa Nicholas to help rebuild the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The hotel was used as the headquarters of American troops during the invasion of the island.

The government also noted improvement in educational opportunities, with the launching of a Continuing Education Programme (CEP), as well as expansion of the list of subjects taught at secondary schools. The NNP government's first year also saw start of the rebuilding of the mental hospital bombed by the Americans during the invasion leaving 19 inmates dead. It also saw the renovation and refurbishing of three district clinics. Test specimens which were previously sent to neighbouring Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados to be analysed are now being handled in Grenada at the St Georges General Hospital, and laboratory facilities have been upgraded to provide training for cytologists from both Grenada and nearby islands like St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. The government also says that its eye clinic is now fully staffed and equipped to enable operations previously done abroad to take place in the country, and that a drug formulary has been prepared with the aim to prevent duplication in the purchase of imported drugs.

Under a national house repair programme in estimated 700 persons have been provided with building materials. The government also completed 153.3 miles of roads islandwide, installed a new engine at the run-down Grenada Electricity Company (Grenlec) to boost its capacity, upgraded telephone communication between Grenada and Carriacou, as well as purchased spare parts to bring back on the road 18 public transport buses.

ST LUCIA

COMPTON SAYS NO TO INCOME TAX ABOLITION

FL261758 Bridgetown CANA in English 1601 GMT 26 Mar 86

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 26, CANA -- Prime Minister John Compton told St Lucians last night that the government could not afford to abolish income tax at this time.

However, in unveiling his 232.6 million dollar(one EC dlr; 37 U.S. cents) budget, Compton said the time was ripe to give some relief to taxpayers.

In a two hour presentation, the Finance Minister said government had decided against removing income tax altogether as 27 million dollars would have to be found from other sources to maintain essential services. However, relief will be granted by simplifying the income tax system, increasing the present basic tax allowance from 2,000 to 3,000 dollars, raising the threshold at which tax payments begin, and lowering the rates at the upper end of the scale to permit hard working St Lucians to retain more of their income, Compton said.

With these adjustments it will mean that a man with a wife and two children whose earnings is less than 6,000 dollars per annum will pay no taxes at all, and the measures proposed will remove 3,000 persons from the tax net.

Compton said that to compensate for the revenue lost by these measures, the administration proposed to adjust the consumption taxes on certain goods in the luxury category without touching essential goods.

He added these measures are merely provisional and at present the income tax laws are now the subject of a comprehensive revision. As it has been agreed that the income tax laws through the OECS states should be harmonised, the Legal Affairs Department of the OECS is at present assisting in the exercise.

Compton said the withholding tax introduced in 1980 is to be abolished as it relates to taxes on dividends and profits on which income taxes have already been paid, but will be retained with respect to management fees, an area often used to avoid tax.

Government also proposed to revise a number of stamp duties on inland revenue transactions,and adjust the tax payable by insurance companies.

Compton said that 6.6 million dollars was owed in income tax and the government planned to follow the example of St Vincent by waiving payment of interest on all arrears if settlement was made by June 30.

The Prime Minister described the budget as one for job creation but a give away.

In all taxes are expected to contribute 164.5 million dollars, while 44.1 million dollars will be received by way of grants from foreign governments and international institutions.

Some 28.7 million dollars will be borrowed from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), of which 14.6 million will go towards capital development programmes, and 11.5 million for external funding. The recurrent expenditure is estimated at 145 million dollars and capital at 87.5 million. Last year's budget totalled 215.2 million dollars.

Compton told parliament that although the economy improved during the 1985-86 period and the revised figure for revenues is expected to exceed estimates by 3 million dollars, expenditure grew faster than estimated. By the end of this financial year there will be a further deficit of 2.5 million which when added to deficits of previous years will result in short term debts of 17.5 million dollars, he said.

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SOVIET SUBMARINES ALLEGEDLY SEEN OFF COAST

PY271335 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1214 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Mar del Plata, 27 Mar (TELAM) -- Navy officers consulted by TELAM today did not wish to report anything about the alleged presence of foreign submarines about 30 miles from Punta Mogotes last night, while the Argentine Navy was operating in the Argentine Sea. The only reply obtained by this morning to the repeated questions asked since last night at the Mar del Plata Navy base was that a report can be released only by the Navy commander in chief's office.

Meanwhile, the newspaper LA CAPITAL of this city today reported that one or more Soviet submarines had allegedly been detected off the coast at Punta Mogotes with unknown intentions. The newspaper adds that the Mar del Plata Navy Prefecture said that only the Mar del Plata Navy base could provide information about this subject. However, the newspaper reports, when a Navy Prefecture officer was asked to confirm the report, he hinted that it might have happened, without stating so directly. When a Navy base officer was then questioned, he said that he knew nothing about the event and added that there were no personnel at the base to find out what had happened.

TELAM consultations have been met with total silence among local Navy circles this morning.

GOVERNMENT TRYING TO SELL FRG-BUILT SUBMARINE

PY271912 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (NA) -- According to a newspaper report, one of the submarines that is being built in the FRG for the Argentine Navy has been sold by our country to a third party because of budget problems. The report states that a high-ranking foreign relations official traveled to the FRG in the last few hours with instructions to sell one of the submarines built in that country for our Navy. According to the report, the Argentine diplomat's mission was successful, and another Foreign Ministry official had traveled to the FRG a few days ago to clinch the deal.

Regarding this subject, Defense Production Secretary Daniel Lariqueta said that the sale "has not yet been made, but we are holding talks with various friendly countries." He provided no more details. Defense Minister German Lopez will travel to the FRG on 29 March, and the subject of the submarine sale will be discussed with his German counterpart Manfred Worner.

DYNAMITE EXPLODES ON U.S. EMBASSY TERRACE

PY271600 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1445 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 27 Mar (EFE) -- A dynamite charge exploded today on the terrace of the building that houses the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, causing only slight damage. The local police have reported that the explosion caused more noise and smoke than damage to the embassy, which is located in the downtown area of the city.

Embassy officials and police explosives experts who are investigating the incident have confirmed that the dynamite charge was thrown from a window of a neighboring building, although they do not know exactly from which office or floor. The official communique regarding the explosion, which occurred at 1345 GMT, does not mention who is to blame, but unofficial reports stress that the action is related to the protests of leftist sectors against the escalation of the conflicts in the Sidra Gulf and on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

'People's Command' Claims Attack

PY272358 Paris AFP in Spanish 2343 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 27 Mar (AFP) -- According to a radio station that received the information by telephone, the People's Command [Commando del Pueblo], an organization unknown so far in Bolivia, has claimed responsibility for the dynamite attack against the U.S. Embassy in La Paz this morning.

According to the radio station, a man who introduced himself as chief of the command, Commander Javier, said that the explosion on the terrace of the U.S. Embassy is a warning to the U.S. Government for its military actions against the Libyan people. Javier pointed out that on this occasion there was no threat to human life but that if the Reagan administration continues with its escalation of terror against Nicaragua, Cuba, El Salvador, and Libya, we will hit hard against the Americans.

Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy said that an investigation is being carried out and that the explosion was aimed at creating fear among the population. The U.S. Embassy reported that at the time of the explosion U.S. Ambassador Edward Rowell was carrying out routine activities in his office.

DRUGS-ARMS EXCHANGE REPORTED ON BRAZILIAN BORDER

PY272224 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Relay from Cochabamba]

[Text] Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy has reported that intelligence personnel have detected exchanges of drugs for weapons and vehicles at the Brazilian border. The minister said that this is an indication of the appearance of guerrilla or criminal groups. Minister Barthelemy, who yesterday attended a debate on drug trafficking at the headquarters of the Federation of Factory Workers, said that now, more than ever, the country is suffering the consequences of drug trafficking and that this situation could turn us into criminals, because the more coca that is grown, the more cocaine is produced. He reiterated that intelligence personnel in the Interior Ministry and the Armed Forces are carrying out investigations on the exchange of drugs for weapons and vehicles.

DOCUMENT CRITICIZING CHILEAN AMBASSADOR LEAKED

PY271930 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2354 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Brasilia, 26 Mar (EFE) -- The new Chilean Ambassador in Brasilia Raul Schmidt is a "hardliner" in subjects such as human rights and the Bolivian aspiration to recover a land strip to the Pacific Ocean. This was revealed in a document published today which has leaked from official Brazilian circles. Its existence was denied by the government and the Foreign Ministry but it reached the press anyway.

When the newspaper CORREIO BRASILIENSE reported that Ambassador Schmidt had presented his credentials, it also reported that General Augusto Pinochet "must not count on the Brazilian Government's sympathy to its remaining in power." The newspaper was referring to a press communique that was distributed yesterday by the protocol office of Government House stating that Schmidt "is considered to be a trustworthy adviser to Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime de Valle, who is identified with the hardliners." A Government House source told a group of reporters that he could get them a copy of the communique, "but without the disagreeable part," published by CORREIO BRASILIENSE. A group of reporters verified that a diplomat from the Chilean Embassy in Brasilia yesterday requested a copy of the communique from Government House, while reporters obtained a copy through unofficial means.

CORREIO BRASILIENSE today predicted that Schmidt "will not remain long in his post," and it recalled that the late President Tancredo Neves had decided to break relations with Chile because he did not want Pinochet to remain in power. This unusual evaluation of the Chilean diplomat was not commented on by the Chilean Embassy and its spokeman told EFE: "We will make no public comments."

Relations To Be Minimized

PY272112 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1836 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Mar (EFE) -- Following orders imparted personally by President Jose Sarney, the Brazilian Government will restrict to an "indispensable minimum level" its relations with the regime of Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, the newspaper JORNAL DE BRASILIA reported here today. A Brazilian Foreign Ministry official declined to comment on the report, which adds that Sarney's order will be maintained so long as Pinochet rules Chile. It was noted in diplomatic circles that since the administration of Baron Rio Branco, the architect of the Brazilian diplomacy in the 19th century, Chile has been considered a traditional "ally" of Brazil.

JORNAL DE BRASILIA reported today that Itamaraty is already implementing Sarney's order. According to the newspaper, two events reflect the change in Brazil's attitude: first, the Brazilian decision to endorse the recent UN resolution issued in Geneva condemning human rights violations by the Chilean military regime; and second, 2 days ago Planalto Palace released a press communique after the presentation of credentials by the new Chilean ambassador, Raul Schmidt. The communique regarded Schmidt as a member of the toughest group of hardliners within the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

The communique, the newspaper says, charges the new Chilean ambassador with following a hard line on the controversial, critical human rights situation in Chile and with opposing a solution to the Bolivian sea outlet problem. The newspaper also predicts that Brazilian Ambassador to Santiago Jorge Ribeiro will be replaced soon, that trade will be reduced to an indispensable minimum level, and that arms sales to Pinochet's regime will be banned.

COMMUNIST PARTY BROADCASTS 1-HOUR PROGRAM

PY270250 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Mar 86 p 4

[Text] The Brazilian Communist Party [PCB] yesterday defended President Sarney's administration in an address to the nation on a national television and radio network. Gicondo Dias, 72, president of the Provisional Nacional Directorate of the party, said that the PCB "supports the New Republic." He explained, however, that its support is not unconditional. "We do not support any government unconditionally," he said.

Toward the end of the broadcast, which lasted from 2030 to 2130, PCB Deputy Roberto Freire, from the state of Pernambuco, summarized the PCB's guidelines. He said that the party supports the parliamentarian regime of the government because it considers it the "best form of popular participation which also gives stability to the institutions," a 2-year term for deputies, greater state intervention in the economy, agrarian reform, and finally a national constituent assembly to "make a transition to socialism possible."

During the PCB program, the party representatives recalled the party's participation in some of the episodes of Brazilian politics in the last 64 years but they made only brief reference to President Joao Goulart's administration, ousted in 1964. The name of the former general secretary of the party Luis Carlos Prestes was not mentioned once, despite the fact that he appeared on some television clips. Mention of the Soviet Union was confined to the 1917 Russian revolution, and in the discussion of labor unions which lasted 20 minutes, no mention was made of labor union autonomy or ending the labor union tax.

Among those present on the program were writer Jorge Amado, a PCB delegate to the 1946 national constituent assembly, actor Milton Goncalves, architect Oscar Niemeier, and singer Paulinho da vuila.

BRIEFS

NEW WORKERS PARTY LEADERS -- Deputy Irma Passoni was appointed yesterday the new leader of the Workers Party bloc in the Chamber of Deputies replacing Djalma Bom. Deputy Eduardo Suplicy has been appointed first vice leader and deputy Luis Dulci second vice leader. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 Mar 86 p 2 PY]

MERCHANT MARINE DEBT -- According to Mario Picanco, secretary general of the Transport Ministry, the current debt of the merchant marine amounts to $1.7 billion payable over 10 years. [Summary] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Feb 86 p 39 PY]

YELLOW FEVER OUTBREAK -- Health Minister Roberto Santos has confirmed the existence of 3 cases of yellow fever in Sao Paulo. Two people have died. [Excerpt] [Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia network in Portugese 1000 GMT 26 Mar PY]

CARABINEROS CHIEF SEES NO SPLIT IN GOVERNMENT

PY270253 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] General Rodolfo Stange, director of the Carabineros Corps, has said that there is no split within the Government Junta and that if the planned programs require a modification of the Constitution, the modification will be made. This high-ranking chief of the uniformed police also said that regarding the murder of the young woman Alice Meyer, the Carabineros are looking at it from a different angle than the Chilean Investigative Police. He also stated that the Carabineros have purchased some new equipment which will be used to fight terrorism. The director of Carabineros was consulted about the purchase of new equipment for fighting terrorism, and he said that armored police cars are included among them:

[Begin recording] [Stange] Yes, we had to buy armored vehicles in order to prevent bomb attacks similar to the last regrettable attack in which a Carabinero was killed and many were seriously injured, because our vehicles were not armoured like the cars used elsewhere.

[Unidentified reporter] Will all of your vehicles be replaced, or only the ones used in Santiago?

[Stange] Depending on circumstances, all the vehicles will be replaced a few at a time, and the existing ones will be fitted with adequate protection. [end recording]

General Stange was also asked whether he would be willing to review the Constitution in order to consider possible modifications.

[Begin recording] [Stange] It has been discussed, a newspaper has even elaborated about a split inside the Junta. This is an opinion that any citizen may voice; but there is an accepted program, and we have to be faithful to it. If, however, within the frame work of this planned program a modification has to take place, there is no doubt that it will take place.

[Reporter] Are you in favor of the participation of Armed Forces members in elections?

[Stange] The Constitution does not establish this item very clearly, but maybe it will not be necessary to modify the Constitution. We will have to decide about it when the time comes. It has positive and negative aspects.

[Reporter] What are they?

[Stange] That each and every Carabinero is a citizen, while on the other hand every Carabinero has to be ready to maintain order on election day, also during the periods which precede and follow the elections. [end recording]

General Stange, however, repeated that these things should be analyzed when the appropriate moment comes, but not yet.

RETIRED GENERAL ASKS PINOCHET TO LEAVE OFFICE

PY251331 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The greatest news of the day was the letter published by APSI magazine in which General Roberto Viaux, retired, asks General Pinochet to leave office. The letter is dated 7 March and was written in a personal tone, from friend to friend, recalling that they were classmates. The letter also contains harsh criticism and a compelling final challenge when Viaux tells President Pinochet, among other things: I think you have fooled around long enough with the future of Chile and the prestige of the Armed Forces. But, almost at the end of the letter, just above his signature, he says: Abandon your powers for the benefit of Chile, while there is still time. Do it before it is too late. We decided to interview General Viaux. What made you write that letter?

[Begin Viaux recording] The situation the country has been experiencing, and my concern is about the situation of the Chilean people and of the Armed Forces, because I believe it is my duty to say what I think when I look toward the future. [end recording]

In Gen Viaux's opinion his responsibility has two aspects: that of a citizen and that of a uniformed man. Nevertheless, when one reads Gen Viaux's letter one detects a certain alarm and is surprised by the straightforwardness of his language, as though he is making a warning because he never expected a situation like the current one.

[Begin Viaux recording] Indeed, one would never have thought that times such as these could ever be experienced. That is, one would never have imagined that the results of the military coup of 1973 would have these results. I agree entirely with the military ideals of that coup, but they have never been fulfilled. [end recording]

At this stage, we believed it appropriate to ask Gen Viaux if he thought that the National Accord might be a source of unity between the civilians and the Armed Forces, and he answered:

[Begin recording] Yes, sir, the more unity achieved in a country, be it among civilians or among members of the Armed Forces, or between the civilians and the members of the Armed Forces. the more certain it is that this country will be able to overcome any obstacle which may appear, because union brings strength. [end recording]

RADICAL UNION JOINS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

PY201700 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p C-3

[Text] It was reported on 18 March that the Bernardo Echeverria-led Radical Union this week joined the Chilean Social Democratic Party led by Rene Abeliuk. In statements to EL MERCURIO, cheverria said that the Radical Union has since last year sought "the reconciliation of the so-called radical family." In this regard, he recalled the talks held with the Radical Party [PR] led by Enrique Silva Cimma and with the Social Democratic Party.

"It was not possible to negotiate with the PR, because they insisted on reaching an accord with the MDP [People's Democratic Movement], which is a Marxist movement that the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], an extremist group, has joined," he added.

He said that after this analysis his party decided to join the Social Democratic Party. "It is a reconciliation based on the principles of social democracy. In addition, we have joined the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy, and we believe that it is essential to strengthen it, because it is the only feasible alternative for a peaceful transition toward democracy," he concluded.

FPMR CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVER 40 ATTACKS

PY272154 Paris AFP in Spanish 2002 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 27 Mar (AFP) -- A spokesman of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) today said that this organization claims responsibility for over 40 attacks carried out on the night of 26 March and the early morning of 27 March in Santiago, Valparaiso and Concepcion.

Our action was in support of the day of university and high school students mobilization on 26 March, said an anonymous caller to the national and international media. The FPMR spokesman said that the attacks with explosives (plastic bombs) and fire bombs were carried out against banks, power stations, supermarkets, buses, public offices, and progovernment social centers.

The FPMR, which the government of General Augusto Pinochet links to the proscribed Communist Party of Chile, advocates the armed struggle along with the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) against the regime that took over the government in 1973 after Socialist President Salvador Allende was overthrown. The FPMR also claimed responsibility on other occasions for the blackouts in Santiago and other important cities where the majority of the people live.

GOVERNMENT CLOSES ANGOL CITY RADIO NAHUEL

PY272244 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] At midnight tonight Radio Nahuel will definitely stop broadcasting on FM from the city of Angol, in compliance with Decree No 3 issued on 21 February by the telecommunications secretary. The decree states: Pursuant to Law 17,168 of 1982, the concession for operating an FM radio station granted to the city of Angol has been terminated.

The reason stated in the document is that the station had modified the technical characteristics of its installations without the required permission. The decree was signed by Air Force Major General Enrique Escobar Rodriguez, transportation and telecommunications minister, on orders from General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte. Luis Parra, director of the radio station explained that six people have lost their jobs, and added:

[Begin recording] It is not a secret that the Chilean media have been experiencing hard times, particularly our radio station. Despite being small, our station was fully accomplishing its obligations and duties, but this decree is causing a very difficult situation and will leave many people jobless. We are happy, however, to have dutifully and skillfully fulfilled our obligations. [end recording]

He added that they had been repeatedly told to change their way of reporting news, which they did not do out of respect for their policy of faithfully reporting the truth. In conclusion, Parra thanked Radio Chilena for letting Radio Nahuel join its news network, and Jaime Celedon for allowing them to air the program "Improvising" over Radio Chilena.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GOMEZ HURTADO INTERVIEWED

PA261832 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Telephone interview with Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, presidential candidate of the Conservative Party, by unidentified reporters -- live]

[Excerpts] [Question] The situation in the Mediterranean is tense. Libya and the United States are involved in an armed confrontation. What is your view on this? Can World War III break out there?

[Gomez] I hope not. Obviously, we talk with ease about World War III, but that war would have such proportions that it could not be compared to previous conflicts. This is a very serious problem that cannot be solved anywhere in the world, because it involves allegedly legal viewpoints that are in absolute (?confrontation). The Libyans want to close an immense gulf and declare it territorial waters. That is a unilateral declaration that is not recognized by other countries. On the other hand, the United States, which is interested in keeping freedom of the seas, is against a 12-mile territorial sea; this is not acceptable to a great number of countries, including Colombia.

The issue at hand could be perfectly solved if there were international organizations in which such viewpoints could be confronted. However, the United Nations is useless for this; regional African organizations are not useful either. Furthermore Latin American [words indistinct] do not include the United States as ours does; fortunately, ours includes the United States. Therefore, the situation is very difficult from the legal standpoint. We must keep in mind that Mr al-Qadhdhafi cannot be trusted; he is not a reasonable man; he is staunch fanatic who has even threatened to use nuclear forces to destroy other countries. This is a frenetic person; an international criminal with a high aggression capability, because he is one of the world's richest men.

[Question] Some people have described Colonel al-Qadhdhafi as messianic. Yesterday, Dr (Carlos Lehmman) told our station that Al-Qadhdhafi is something like a being with a (?fascinating) halo which he used to build his empire. According to your explanation, could we conclude that in this case the United States is right to continue attacking Libya for miles in the territorial sea?

[Gomez] This is a conflict, and in conflicts there should be an investigation to determine who is right. In this case, any third party opinion is unilateral as well. What is bad is this unilaterality. The threat of what you called World War III is based on that: unilateral opinions that should be confronted in a peaceful and legal scenario. The current crisis involves a UN crisis; a crisis of universal diplomacy, a legal crisis.

[Question] What could be done at the United Nations to turn this organization into a mediator in the conflict that could bring about the world's destruction?

[Gomez] Unfortunately, the United Nations has become a forum. It lost its (?decisive) and coercive capability. It never acted in keeping with the law [words indistinct]. Today there is a majority with no [word indistinct] that turned the United States into a theater to vent ideas. Innocuous things have been said with no [word indistinct] consequences. That supranational organization, which was conceived after the last war as a factor to prevent (?future wars), disapperared. This apparatus disappeared; it was liquidated by the populism of small countries.

[Question] Dr Alvaro Gomez, as for the internal economy in statements made yesterday by Finance Minister Hugo Palacios Mejia, he commented on the almost imminent renunciation by Colombia to 50 percent of the credit obtained by the international financial banking system for the country with great efforts in the previous year. What is your opinion on this?

[Gomez, laughing] Of course, this is a very interesting topic. We made great efforts when I was [words indistinct] to obtain the so-called (?jumbo) credit [word indistinct]. Those were different moments, because we were, so to speak, living in the Latin American neighborhood.

Nevertheless, efforts made to obtain approval for that credit were useful to Colombia, because it showed that it has an economic and payment capability superior to that of all its neighbors. This helped us solve private credit problems, the solvency of the country itself, and its good name.

However, it is evident that, at this moment, the urgency with which we need those credits has disappeared thanks to the coffee bonanza, revenues from coal production, and no expenditures in dollars for petroleum; this allows us to act serenely regarding the use of that credit.

That credit could be maintained to see whether we will finally need it, but we must pay a commission to keep that money available to us. It is evident that we must immediately withdraw a portion of that credit, because we need it for outlays to develop the coal industry and push our Colombian petroleum industry forward. The credit should be used now. We must ensure that it is not monetarized, that is, not converted into pesos immediately, because if each dollar brought into the country is converted into pesos this in turn increases the amount of money available and the cost of living.

The government is taking steps in this regard and I think that....[changes thought] Look, the country has an important advantage: it has various options. When the country did not have even a cent in credit 2 years ago, we had no options. It was very difficult to handle the country's economy. Today, we can choose the most advisable option for the country. That is a very valuable tool for a poor country such as Colombia.

I think that the situation is very manageable. It is important that we handle it in the right way. Our objective should be to keep the situation from getting out of our hands. With this bonanza, we can make investments to change the country; to ensure that the country will not be the same after the bonanza as was the case the last time around. We must take advantage of this situation which allows us to make a choice between alternatives and implement a development and [word indistinct] policy. (?We must continue this) bonaza with investments in dollars available to us. As you know, that is my development policy.

[Question] Dr Gomez, (?federations) such as Fedesarrollo [Federation of Development] and all rural production guilds have said that Colombia should give up a $250-million credit granted by the World Bank under very onerous conditions to peasant production. What is your opinion?

[Gomez] The conditions of that specific credit, that is of the credit obtained for the development of agriculture, are very harsh. Basically, it involved technical conditions. We cannot attack that; we actually fear their consequences, because they specify that Colombia should not protect its agriculture too much.

In fact, Colombian agriculture needs some initial protection, because during the past years, it has lost efficiency. We have not improved our productivity figures. We are producing 1 percent less cotton per hectare than we used to produce; we are producing 1 percent less rice per hectare that we used to, and so on.

Therefore, those credit conditions pose a threat to Colombian peasants. They are concerned, I think, because they do not have the investment capability needed to achieve productivity levels allowing them to compete with international competitors. [words indistinct].

[Question] We have two questions for candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado. First, you recently said in Popayan that should you win the Presidency, you would rid Colombia of guerrillas. Second, and this is a somewhat difficult question, but we expect you to reply very sincerely: Should you win the Presidency, how do you plan to fulfill all the promises you have made given that Colombians are tired of many unfilled promises?

[Gomez] Look, I think that this issue of a guerrilla-free country is a natural (?objective) of any patriot. The peace policy was drafted to achieve peace; it was drafted to achieve peace and that is based on the premise that there are no armed people in peaceful countries. This does not hold true if the country needs its people to be armed.

Therefore, the natural objective of a pacifist policy is to eradicate the guerrilla, not institutionalize it as some think [words indistinct] amnesty and pardons, and general tolerance toward bearing of arms to allow people to have a permanent attack capability. The peace policy is not like that. The current peace policy, as we see it, was destined implement a huge, great, benevolent, (?friendly), risky, and costly opening to see whether we can eradicate the guerrillas.

That is an experience that [word indistinct] the country. That objective should have already been achieved. The objective of my peace policy is to achieve a guerrilla-free country. Colombia is a country without a guerrilla; we must (?be able) to say that sometime in the future.

That would allow us to reestablish not only the good name of the country abroad, but also reestablish security, because many kinds of insecurities are affecting the Colombian people: many are afraid to walk on the streets to [words indistinct] in the evening. there is insecurity regarding state ceremonies and regulations; there are many fears. However, the key to the insecurity problem is to reestablish tolerance for legal order.

We are a legal state; that is our most important characteristic in Latin America; we must bring back a legal state, that is, we must enforce the law with the participation of judges. We want judges to carry out trials and apply the law; we want them to declare people innocent when they are indeed innocent. That is my project for the pacification of the country.

Now, you asked how I will fulfill my promises. We have taken precautionary measures to get financial sources and resources than one thinks [words indistinct]. If we organize current resources and predictable foreign currency revenues from petroleum, coal, and coffee, we would have the tools to make increasingly [word indistinct] and productive efforts.

[Question] Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, your opponent Dr Virgilio Barco recently claimed that objectives established by President Belisario Betancur Cuartas were not fulfilled because he did not have a majority and effective support of Congress. Do you not think, based on the most recent elections for public office, that an eventual Presidency on your part will not be supported?

[Gomez] [Words indistinct] not true, because you attribute that to Dr Barco, and I do not know whether he indeed said that, but I believe you; that is absolutely false. No important government project was refected by the Liberal voting in the Congress. Voting in Congress always favored Belisario Betancur.

The only project Congress did not support was a proposal to prevent the state from growing to thwart the growth of bureaucracy; however, it was a good proposal. The Liberal Party has supported everything else.

[Reporter] We want to thank you for your participation on the Sutatenza newscast. We wish you much success and a Holy Week fulled with reflection and reconciliation.

[Gomez] Thank you for your kindness and for calling me.

FEBRES CORDERO RULES OUT DEBT RENEGOTIATION

PA261240 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero has stated that the country will not alter its commitments for the payment of the foreign debt, despite the latest drop in oil prices. The president brushed off as false reports that his administration will attempt to renegotiate the nation's foreign debt, which totals $7.2 billion. In discussing the so-called Baker Plan, Febres Cordero said that it seems to have stagnated on account of a lack of information regarding its evolution. He said he does not know the fate that that program, which could have been used and implemented in this country, has met.

PARTY DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN VARGAS REBELLION

PA220417 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran accused former President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea of orchestrating the rebellion of Lieutenant General Frank Vargas Pazzos, former Ecuadoran Air Force commander. He said this at the closing meeting of the Independent Movement for National Restoration, of which the First Lady Maria Eugenia de Febres Cordero was appointed president ad-honorem.

The Popular Democracy Party is considering the possibility of taking legal action against Foreign Minister Teran for accusing former President Hurtado of planning Gen Vargas' rebellion. A Popular Democracy spokesman categorically denied Teran's accusations. If it is true that he said that, then we will take legal action, the spokesman said, who added that President Leon Febres Cordero denied he had ever said that the opposition was using Lt Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos to destabilize democracy in our country.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ON INVESTIGATION IN PLANE CASE

PA280330 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Guillermo Moran, attorney general of the nation, has asked for the proper investigations to be carried out with the intention of promoting the corresponding legal actions and investigation to ascertain responsibilities in the purchase of a Fokker airplane, based on the charges made concerning this scandalous affair.

[Begin recording] We have presented the corresponding request for an investigation concerning what has been called the Fokker case, meaning the purchase of an airplane, according to charges made in every sector of the country and news media reports received during the last 15 days. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON SIDRA GULF INCIDENTS

PY271445 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] In Lima, Foreign Minister Allan Wagner has expressed his concern and that of the Peruvian Government over the Libyan-U.S. incidents, stating that he hopes that the conflict will not spread.

[Begin Wagner recording] Although this is a worrisome situation, there is a discrepancy between what Libya considers its territorial waters, that is, 200 km in the Libyan [as heard] Gulf, and what is claimed by the United States, that is, that only 12 miles are Libyan territorial waters in the gulf. Because of this basic discrepancy, the United States -- as we all know -- has again held maneuvers in that area, going beyond the line drawn by Libya for its jurisdictional waters, thus causing the present situation. What essentially is a cause for concern to us is the fact that it could lead to a bigger problem which [words indistinct]. We hope that this will not happen. We believe that means should be devised seeking to prevent holding maneuvers in areas where this type of event may develop.

On the other hand, there is another question that is by no means less important for us as a matter for reflection, namely the fact -- noted in international commentaries and correctly so -- that Libya is one of the signatories of the Law of the Sea Convention, but that it has not ratified it yet. Therefore, Libya cannot claim a 200-mile jurisdiction granted by the Law of the Sea Convention, and the protection of the [word indistinct]. Therefore, Libya is now enforcing unilateral measures on its coast. On the other hand, Libya would undoubtedly have rights if it had ratified the Convention. [end recording]

SOVIET EMBASSY DENIES ATTACK WITH EXPLOSIVES

PY271801 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1657 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 27 Mar (EFE) -- The Soviet Embassy in Lima today denied that it had been the target of a terrorist attack last night. An official of the Soviet mission told EFE that the reports on the attack were not true. "Nothing has happened," the official added.

According to press reports, explosives placed in an outer garden of the Soviet Embassy had caused some damage to doors and windows. In turn, the Anti-Terrorist Agency (Dircote) told EFE that they had no knowledge of any type of attack against the Soviet Embassy in Lima.

In February bombs were thrown, apparently from moving vehicles, at the Spanish, U.S., Argentine, FRG, and Indian Embassies and against offices of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], damaging the buildings.

WAGNER DISCUSSES NONALIGNED NEWS AGENCY POOL

PY271834 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] The Peruvian Government today made an important clarification through its foreign minister.

Over the past few days, Panamericana, along with other mass media, has been sounding the alarm over news agency reports datelined Havana, stating that Peru had joined a pool to coodinate activities with other state-owned news agencies from the so-called Nonaligned Countries. The concern, expressed in two editorial notes, was not based on the fact that the news agency ANDINA would not participate in a joint operation with other state agencies, but on the fact that Peru had joined the so-called new international order of information, which is nothing but state control over the news.

Fortunately, our foreign minister has made the appropriate and necessary clarification because the Constitution, the laws, and also the leaning of the government call for such a clarification. Peru is committed only to its Constitution and fully respects freedom of expression. We at Panamericana greet this clarification with pleasure. Here is the statement we received this afternoon from Foreign Minister Allan Wagner.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter, in progress] ...concerning the next meeting mentioned by Mr Cervera [ANDINA News Agency president] which, according to the news agency ANDINA, would be held in Peru.

[Wagner] We have received the information from Mr Cervera that the next meeting of the pool will be held in Lima, and we believe that we must distinguish between the pool of news agencies in which several underdeveloped countries participate, and the controversial issue of the new international order of information.

As I have just sought to define it, the new international order of information is an undefined concept with various approaches, depending on the ideology of the people involved in this issue. We have a clear political position as a state and a clear ideological position as a government. The pool of news agencies must be considered as a South-South cooperation mechanism. Our position regarding the so-called new international order of information will always be one of championing freedom of expression, seeking to ensure information for the mass media will always be available so that the mass media can freely determine what information to publish. [end recording]

SHINING PATH AMBUSHES POLICE PATROL

PY271500 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Two Republican Guards were killed today by Shining Path terrorists who ambushed them in the Tingo Maria area. The Republican Guard command has reported that a Republican Guard patrol was returning to its base in Tulumayo, 15 km from Tingo Maria, when it was ambushed. The Republican Guard members killed are Bejarano Cipriano Pitman, 24, and Elias Ricra Tapara, 27. Jose Reynoso Huaynate, a civilian, was also killed.

USSR'S VAGRIS VISITS, DISCUSSES RELATIONS

PA271630 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p D 1

[By Alba Sanchez]

[Text] Ya. Ya. Vagris, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has said he does not know the exact date for the second meeting that U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the CPSU, will hold this year, but he noted that his country expects this meeting to have specific results.

"Although our viewpoints do not coincide in many aspects, it is important to take the points where there is agreement and secure them. Contact is being made at this moment for this purpose. It is not that we think the arms race will come to an end at that meeting, but we do expect some results because the Soviet Union and people with common sense have reached the conclusion that the arms buildup must end. We also know that it would be senseless for us to act alone. This is a subject that is a matter of interests to everyone, and all countries must state their views to create international public opinion in favor of peace."

Vagris heads the Soviet parliamentary delegation that arrived in Venezuela on Sunday for an 8-day visit. In addition to Vagris, who is also deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Latvia, the delegation is composed of Victoria Gnatiuk, representative of the Ukraine; Anatoli Ivanov, a writer who is a member of the Commission for Youth Affairs of the Supreme Soviet; and Leonid Nersesyan, a member of the Commission for Science and Technology of the Chamber of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet and vice president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Armenia.

After placing a floral wreath at the tomb of the Liberator at the National Pantheon, the Soviet delegation visited the Federal Legislative Palace and met with the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate Permanent Foreign Affairs Committees, Oswaldo Alvarez Paz and Ruben Carpio Castillo respectively, who hosted a luncheon in its honor.

The afternoon's agenda included meetings with Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi and former Presidents Carlos Andres Perez and Luis Herrera Campins.

In his capacity as head of the Soviet delegation, Mr Vagris expressed appreciation for the welcome his delegation was afforded upon its arrival in Venezuela, and hope that its visit with the members of parliament will help expand the relations that exist between Venezuela and the USSR.

"Contacts between nations' parliaments are indispensable, more so at this time when the world situation is so tense."

He discussed the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress that was held recently, "during which a full program that will guide the country's socioeconomic development over the next 15 years, that is, until the year 2000, was drafted."

"During his address General Secretary Gorbachev placed utmost importance on foreign policy. His report on political affairs reiterated his 15 January proposal to disarm. It is evident that in order to undertake an economic program of the magnitude we intend to carry out it must include everyone's contributions to peace, a sine qua non to the happy conclusion of these programs. That is why the USSR is in favor of ending the arms race. We are convinced that without it enormous economic resources will be released to benefit mankind and help the developing countries."

He stressed that it makes no sense to spend so much on the arms race, noting that it is not even funny to try to estimate the number of times the Soviets and Americans could destroy each other. "Enough arms have accumulated so that we could do it several times."

"The most rational thing to do is to reduce those arsenals and stop the race." He admitted that in that effort the heaviest responsibility falls on the nuclear powers, but "not only on them."

"All the world's countries should express their opinions on these problems because it is important to know the opinion of the entire international community. We are happy to see that Venezuela raises its voice to defend peace at international forums, including the United Nations. This is not a goal that is easy to reach, but we must continue to work to attain it."

He said that this is the foundation of Soviet foreign policy, adding that the principles of sovereignty, nonintervention in the domestic affairs of states, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts continue to be basic pillars of that policy. Pressed for an opinion on helping the Third World countries to pay their foreign debts with the resources that would be released if the arms race ceased, Vagris said that in his report to the CPSU, General Secretary Gorbachev discussed the debt problem and the possibility that funds used irrationally could be used for that purpose.

"We want just economic relations to prevail around the world. We are calling on everyone to cooperate in solving this problem."

He added that it is inhuman that some countries are suffering as a result of the sudden plunge oil prices have taken. What can the Soviet Union, as a producer nation, do to prevent this? he was asked.

"As I have said before, we believe that the artificial drop in prices on the international oil market is unfair. In the USSR we always take into account the situation of the world market because we cannot sell our oil at lower prices."

He said that the possibility of speaking with the OPEC countries exists, but did not elaborate on this further "because we are not oil experts, but lawmakers." The Supreme Soviet member was also asked for his opinion on the Central American problem. "The situation is quite tense, almost explosive," he said. He pointed out that his country does not meddle in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua, "Although it does offer its assistance and cooperation to the Sandinist government, which is a legitimate, elected regime."

"We are not the kind of country that seeks to change a regime if it does not like it. Each country has the right to self-determination. To resolve the Central American situation, foreign intervention in the domestic affairs of its countries and the aid to the contras must stop so that those peoples can continue to carry out their own plans. An undeclared war is being waged against Nicaragua and to resolve it intervention in its domestic affairs must end."

The Soviet delegation will travel to Ciudad Guayana today to participate in an event hosted by the CVG [not further identified] that includes visits to the Guri Dam and the installations of the Orinoco Iron and Steel Plant. After returning this afternoon, the delegation will meet with President Jaime Lusinchi. It will travel to Maracaibo tomorrow to tour the oil installations there, according to a program prepared by Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. Thursday's agenda includes a visit to the Venezuelan Social Security Institute and meetings with former President Caldera, Youth Minister Virginia Olivo de Celli, and AEV [not further identified] President Caupolican Ovalles. On Friday the Soviet officials will spend the day in Caracas and on Saturday they will ride the cable car to El Avila mountain. Their visit ends on Sunday.

EL DIA: U.S. 'PRESSURE' IN C. AMERICA INCREASES

PA271800 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 26 Mar 86 p 15

[Unattributed article: "More Pressure"]

[Text] As the Senate vote for the $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries approaches, the U.S. Government has again stepped up pressure on member countries of the Contadora and Support Groups, and the Central American governments. In Buenos Aires, the media has reported renewed U.S. pressure on the Raul Alfonsin administration, a pressure that increased after the meeting of the Contadora and Support Groups in Punta del Este. In this same vein, the White House accused Nicaragua of training Argentine guerrillas, which was denied by Argentine Minister of the Interior Antonio Troccoli.

Pressure is building in Central America. While on a flash tour that was initially secret, Eliott Abrams, U.S. undersecretary of state for inter-American affairs, met with the presidents of Costa Rica, Luis Alberto Monge; of Honduras, Jose Azcona Hoyos; and later, in El Salvador, with Jose Napoleon Duarte, to get to know the viewpoints of the Central American governments on the debates in the U.S. Congress. For the first time, the U.S. Government has shown interest in the opinion of some of the governments that are not members of either Contadora or the Support Group regarding the debates in the U.S. Congress. This is probably because George Shultz already knows the viewpoints of the Latin American countries, which presented Contadora's position to him at his office.

New measures of this kind are to be expected within the next few days, and it would not be surprising if, in order to justify aid to the contras, the U.S. Administration mounted a propaganda show which could have a definitive influence on the country's public opinion, and thus justify not only the $100 million, but also the sending of more military troops into the area. Something of this nature would disregard the peace aspirations of a growing number of U.S. citizens who do not want to see themselves involved in a new aggression like Vietnam, and, of course, the aspirations of most of the peace-loving Latin American countries.

ENERGY SECRETARY CONDITIONS OIL EXPORT REDUCTION

PA271644 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Report by Humberto Mares Navarro in Hidalgo]

[Text] Francisco Labastida Ochoa, secretary of energy, mines, and parastate industry, has said that Mexico is willing to reduce its petroleum exports so long as OPEC reaches an equitable agreement on the share of the petroleum sacrifice that will guarantee high prices and more revenue for the country. Labastida Ochoa said this during a news conference shortly before President Miguel de la Madrid ended his working tour of Hidalgo. Francisco Labastida added that Mexico's position continues to be that of the last OPEC meeting in Geneva, which he attended, is a step in search of new objectives. The energy secretary said that there is consensus among the 13 OPEC members and the 5 countries that are not members of OPEC to seek this balance, but that what is needed is the implementation and organization of the strategy to achieve it. Labastida Ochoa said that Mexico believes that they are on the right path to achieve this stability but he also expressed concern over the lack of quick results. Labastida Ochoa said that even though it is not desirable, a military conflict like the one in the Middle East might contribute to an increase in petroleum prices. However, the energy secretary said that such a phenomenon is not very likely.

PRESIDENT DEPARTS FOR MEETINGS IN NEW YORK

PA271924 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] President Eric Arturo Delvalle has left for New York to hold meetings with important U.S. businessmen, bankers, and governors. President Delvalle, who is traveling with his wife, will meet in private with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. President Delvalle will also meet with prominent figures of the U.S. banking, industrial, and government sectors. At the Omar Torrijos Herrera Airport, President Delvalle was seen off by several ministers, several directors of semi-autonomous institutions, and Colonel Angel Mina Justiniani, who represented the General Staff of the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama.

EDITORIAL ON U.S. AMBASSADOR DAVIS' TASK

PA272322 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 27 Mar 86 p 4 A

[Editorial: "On the Threshold of History"]

[Text] Mr Arthur H. Davis recently arrived in Panama. He has been entrusted by the U.S. Government with the responsibilities of the post of U.S. ambassador to Panama.

Any diplomatic representation of such high rank involves, in addition to honor, a serious challenge to the designate due to the attributes and distinction that result from bearing the enormous responsibility of being considered the personal representative of the President of the country that has designated him and of the nation that has chosen him for such a high position.

In the case of a U.S. ambassador to Panama, as well as in the case of a Panamanian ambassador to Washington, this challenge is intensified due to the trade, historical, cultural, and political ties that exist between the two countries, in regard to which the Panama Canal -- due to the circumstances -- is the umbilical cord that joins them. It is also a sensitive area that generates anger, differences, and even serious problems that history has already amassed on its pages in indelible ink.

Ambassador Davis should calmly consider the fact that, for obvious reasons, his term will be followed step by step by the Panamanian people as well as by the Latin sector of the American continent. The problems that his country and ours must resolve in a just and advantageous manner demand a high degree of understanding, respect, and equilibrium on our part as well as his.

Our people, who have controlled their tempers during the situations experienced so far in this century, have stored large amounts of understanding, patience, and respect for the opinions of others. They have likewise learned to wait, request, and demand equal attitudes from others because we always treat others as equals, without haste, without arrogance, without surrendering, without indignities.

Mr Arthur Davis' experience in the diplomatic field is his best and greatest letter of triumph in this and in any other commitment that may present itself during this successful career. Therefore, we do not doubt for one instant that the manner in which he will analyze and handle the problems -- most of which are positive -- that must be resolved in our country, will give him the opportunity to attain the success that comes to those who are respected because they respect others and who are well treated by others because of their generosity.

ROUNDUP ON HONDURAN-NICARAGUAN BORDER SITUATION

PA271335 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1220 GMT 27 Mar 86

[By Federico Talavera]

[Text] Panama City, 27 Mar (EFE) -- The Honduran Government has mobilized troops to the Nicaraguan Border. At the same time, Honduras denounced the Nicaraguan aggression to the OAS while Nicaragua accused the United States of preparing "a trap similar to that of the Gulf of Tonkin." It has been officially reported that U.S. and Honduran helicopters are airlifting an infantry battalion with all its support weapons to the country's eastern region on the border with Nicaragua.

The troops have been ordered to dislodge from the national territory the Sandinist soldiers who, according to intelligence reports, entered the country on Sunday under the pretext of pursuing counterrevolutionaries. The U.S. helicopters are not armed, but the Honduran helicopters are equipped with missiles and machine guns. The North Americans have expressly been ordered not to get involved in Honduran-Nicaraguan battles, and their mission consists in transporting the troops to secure sites from where the Honduras will travel by their own means to the combat zones.

In Washington, the U.S. Government denied that it pressured Tegucigalpa to report the Nicaraguan incursion at a time when the U.S. House of Representatives had rejected the aid for the contras and when the Senate is ready to vote today. Nevertheless, Pentagon officials believe that the White House reports that 1,500 Sandinists crossed the border and that there are two more battalions ready to cross it are "exaggerated." It has also been announced in Washington that Honduras will present a report to the OAS secretary general on the Sandinist incursion into its territory and the Honduran Government's actions to repel it but that Honduras will not resort to the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR).

The report does not specify the number of Sandinist troops nor how far they penetrated into Honduran territory. It only states that Honduras "has confirmed reports of the incursion of Sandinist troops in Olancho Department."

For its part, Nicaragua has told the countries of the Nonaligned Movement in the United Nations about the "strange similarities" between the events that are now taking place in Central America and those of the Gulf of Tonkin which led to the U.S. military intervention in Vietnam. Nora Astorga, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, told the Coordination Bureau of the Nonaligned Countries that, "not without reason," the U.S. press has called attention to the "strange similarities" between what is now taking place in Central America and the Gulf of Tonkin expisode that "served as a pretext for a direct U.S. involvement" in the Vietnam war. The diplomat said that for the past 5 years, the United States has "desperately been seeking the political excuse to directly attack our country" and that "it has once again resorted to the fabrication of an alleged invasion of Honduras by Nicaraguan troops."

Yesterday in San Jose, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge expressed surprise about a protest sent by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega over a forthcoming meeting of Central American vice presidents that had been planned 9 months ago. The invitation for the meeting of vice presidents was sent on 26 August to the heads of state of Honduras, Roberto Suazo Cordova; El Salvador, Jose Napoleon Duarte; and Guatemala, Oscar Mejia Victores.

In addition to expressing surprise over the delayed reaction of the Managua government, Monge officially denied, in a note sent to Ortega today, that the meeting has aggressive objectives against the Sandinist regime, and he reiterated that it will deal only with the topic of reactivation of trade among the participants.

The vice presidents, he added, "will try to find solutions to the economic difficulties of the four countries and this meeting does not seek -- as your government seems to believe -- to ignore the Central American negotiations with the EEC."

The exclusion of Nicaragua in the meeting of vice presidents "has absolutely nothing to do" with political initiatives, nor is it a maneuver of the United States or third countries as your message rashly and disrespectfully suggests," the Costa Rican president stressed.

NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA DISAGREE OVER BORDER DOCUMENT

PA261259 Paris AFP in Spanish 0351 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] United Nations, New York, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Clear disagreements between Nicaragua and Costa Rica emerged today in the United Nations with regard to the scope of the document that the two countries signed on 12 March.

Nora Astorga, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, presented to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar the "joint agreement" signed by the deputy foreign ministers of the two countries and requested that it be published as an official document.

Today Ambassador Edwin Munoz, Costa Rican permanent alternate representative, presented statements of President Luis Alberto Monge which stress the "correct meaning" of the document signed. The documents he says, is not an agreement between his country and Nicaragua but is only a base "upon which an agreement can be drawn up."

The text attached to Nora Astorga's letter clearly states "Joint Agreement Signed between the Deputy Foreign Ministers of Costa Rica (Gerardo Trejos) and Nicaragua (Victor Hugo Tinoco). [quotation mark as received]

It contemplates the creation of a permanent mission to investigate and inspect border incidents between both countries.

Costa Rica

ORTEGA SENDS 'DELAYED REACTION' PROTEST NOTE

PA270412 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0149 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] San Jose, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- President Luis Alberto Monge today expressed surprise at a protest note that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega sent to him regarding an upcoming meeting of vice presidents that was convoked 9 months ago.

An invitation was sent to Honduran, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan Presidents Roberto Suazo Cordova, Jose Napoleon Duarte, and Oscar Mejia Victores on 26 August. Suazo Cordova was replaced by Jose Azcona Hoyo on 27 January and Mejia Victores was replaced by Vinicio Cerezo on 14 February. The note was sent through Costa Rican Vice President Armando Arauz, who visited Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala to this end.

In addition to expressing surprise at the Managua government's delayed reaction, Monge denied in an official note sent to Ortega at noon today that the meeting had aggressive purposes against the Sandinist regime, adding that this meeting will discuss only the reactivation of commerce between those countries participating in the meeting.

Monge added: The vice presidents "will only seek solutions for the four countries' economic difficulties. This meeting does not intend, as your government seems to believe, to ignore Central America's negotiations with the EEC." The Costa Rican president stressed: Nicaragua's exclusion from the vice president's meeting "has absolutely nothing to do" with political initiatives, nor is it a scheme of the United States or other countries, as your message lightly and disrespectively suggests." [quotation marks as received]

Monge insisted: Simply put, Nicaragua's economic situation and preferences and the different nature of such problems were taken into consideration. These factors "make it impossible for your country to have a harmonious participation in the initiative."

Ortega presented the charges in a letter which, according to Monge, was delivered to him in San Jose 2 days ago. He did not, however, mention the means used for the delivery.

The Costa Rican president reminded the Nicaraguan president that the region's political affairs have been reserved for the Esquipulas meeting next month. He said he supposes "Nicaragua is still planning to attend this meeting."

In his letter, Ortega told Monge that Costa Rica committed itself to "an immoral and illegal act: by supporting President Duarte's proposal for a dialogue between the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran Governemnts and the rebels in their respective countries, a charge that was also rejected today. In his response, Monge indicates that this proposal responds to the spirit of the Contadora negotiations "to effect national reconciliation processes in Central American countries." He added: I can understand that, for the current Nicaraguan Government, "It is unacceptable to carry out such a process. Despite this, I cannot accept your views on how Costa Rica should conduct its foreign policy."

Monge reminded Ortega that he, Monge, has always believed dialogue to be a means to solve political problems and added: "We have maintained that a dialogue should take place in El Salvador and we also regard such a dialogue as indispensable in Nicaragua."

El Salvador

ARENA URGES PRESIDENT DUARTE TO FIGHT CORRUPTION

PA271514 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 58

["Open letter" from the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, to President Duarte in the form of a paid advertisement; date not given; signed by ARENA President Alfredo F. Cristiani]

[Text] Open letter to President Duarte.

Mr President:

It is a recognized fact that El Salvador is living in one of the most difficult and conflictive periods in its history.

The current social, economic, and political crises have reached such serious levels that the citizens are kept in a state of permanent insecurity, anxiety, and uneasiness. To date, nothing positive or specific has been done to overcome this; quite the contrary, this situation is worsening each day and is thereby posing a threat to our democratic system and our fatherland's security.

Mr President, I realize that some causes of the current crisis originate abroad, such as the war that has been mercilessly imposed on us by international communism. However, other causes are internal, such as a lack of capability and political willingness and mainly corruption. I wish to refer to the latter because I am concerned about the defense of the moral values of our long-suffering and hard-hit fatherland. Currently there are indications of an increasing, generalized corruption within the public administration. It is now more evident than ever. This official corruption, according to the people, takes place in the most diverse forms. However, on this occasion I wish to discuss specifically three of them: First, the abuse of power leading to the granting of special favors; second, bribery in government contracts; and third, illicit business transactions, such as contraband, under the protection of a public office or political power.

All these indications of the most regrettable and immoral corruption are being commented on by the Salvadoran people; we already know that there is no smoke without fire. A president of the Republic faces a diversity of problems, but that cannot be a pretext to avoid fighting against this social and legal crime because it is a dangerous element to national security and a heavy burden that is treacherously eating up the fruit of the work of all Salvadorans.

Mr President, you must also remember that on various and reiterated occasions, first as de facto president and later as constitutional president, you have promised to fight corruption regardless of its source. Upon swearing in your new Cabinet, you vigorously pledged to dismiss any official involved in corruption.

It is with this in mind that ARENA recently presented to the Legislative Assembly a draft bill aimed at fighting and eliminating corruption in the management of public funds and proposed the creation of a special commission to probe -- in a just and imperial manner -- the illegal enrichment of officials and citizens involved in businesses or issues pertaining to the state. Our initiative was supported by other political factions and, undoubtedly, by all Salvadorans. However, as you and the public noticed, unfortunately the 33 deputies of your Christian Democratic Party [PDC] filed away the just, patriotic ARENA request in a hasty, unexplainable, and malicious way without presenting any reasonable arguments.

A solution to the corruption problem requires the participation of all and legal measures to eradicate it. Laws, no matter how perfect, and good intentions will serve no purpose if they are not enforced accurately and in a timely fashion. You can and must help eliminate vices and habits that are not in keeping with national interests, especially now that they have multiplied.

The Salvadoran people are silent witnesses of the corruption drama because at one time they have been the innocent victims of bribery or have heard rumors of corruption.

As citizens, parents, and men concerned over the fate of our fatherland, we cannot allow the practice of or cover-up of actions that go against moral values, proper behavior, and laws; otherwise, we would become accomplices. That is why, instead of opposing the ARENA initiative, you and your PDC party should have supported it. After all, we week to rescue moral values, democratic principles, and a legal state.

Mr President, there is still time, I hope that later will not be too late.

Alfredo F. Cristiani, ARENA President

ARMY DISCOVERS 'CLANDESTINE HOSPITAL' IN CUSCATLAN

PA271709 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Communique issued by Coprefa, date not given; read by unidentified Coprefa official -- live or recorded]

[Text] Atlacatl Batallion members have discovered a clandestine hospital containing a large amount of surgical material, medicine, and important documents during a patrol operation in the vicinity of San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department. They found 25 pounds of explosives, 15 mines and their respective devices, and a typewriter at another location in the same area.

Santos Reyes Osorio suffered serious wounds caused by explosives planted by subversives in a place near Hacienda San Felipe, Concepcion Batres municipality, Usulutan Department.

Finally, soldiers Samuel Grande and Jose Salvador Romero were kidnapped in different areas by numerous terrorists who took them from their respective residences. The first soldier was kidnapped in Santa Cruz canton, Santiago Nonualco municipality, La Paz Department, while the second was kidnapped in Chilanguera canton, Chirilagua municipality, San Miguel Department. Samuel Grande is a member of the Military Engineers Detachment headquartered in Zacatecoluca and Jose Salvador Romero is a member of the 3d Infrantry Brigade headquartered in San Miguel Department. The two soldiers were on leave when the terrorists took them to an unknown location.

Our objective is peace.

FMLN-FDR COLLABORATORS ABANDON RANKS, SURRENDER

PA271953 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 26 Mar 86 pp 5, 50

[Text] More than 400 FMLN-FDR collaborators have abandoned their ranks and turned themselves in to the military base headquarters at the La Chorrera del Guayabo Hydroelectric Dam. They told military authorities that their escape was very difficult, and they had been trying for weeks.

We are tired of working to sustain the terrorists; we earned no money, were mistreated, and forced to work. We had no medicine or food. Our crops were taken by the extremists; we were left regretting having worked from sunrise to sunset for nothing; we faced dangers and did not even know why we were living like wandering Jews.

The FMLN dissidents explained that they were victims of all kinds of humiliation, insults, and threats during the past 4 years. They said many of their relatives died in armed clashes in which they were trapped.

Upon arriving at the military base headquarters at the La Chorrera del Guayabo Hydroelectric Dam, they were well received. They are currently being treated by doctors, psychologists, social workers, etc.

We hope that other groups being held as if they were hostages by FMLN-FDR terrorists in various points of the country will follow our example, they said.

General Adolfo Onecifero Blandon, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, told LA PRENSA GRAFICA that verious international and service organizations are aware of the situation of the FMLN-FDR collaborators. Those organizations know they have abandoned their ranks because they can no longer bear mistreatment, hunger, disease, and the dangers to which they were exposed.

The collaborators have repeatedly urged other Salvadorans, who are being pressured and who have received death threats from the FMLN-FDR, to escape and turn themselves in to the nearest authorities, who will extend them shelter, protection, and other kinds of help.

VENCEREMOS COMMENTS ON U.S. ROLE IN HONDURAS

PA272018 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1915 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Several Honduran media, both press and radio, have begun to report the people's rejection and serious concern over the growing involvement of the Honduran Army in the aggression plans of the Reagan administration in the Central American region. In recent hours, various Honduran social sectors have voiced through the media their concern over the role the United States assigns to Honduras in a warmongering policy where it is planned that the United States will supply the dollars while Honduras provides the dead.

Ever since the Sandinist people's revolution was achieved in Nicaragua, the U.S. Administration has been training, supplying, and leading the counterrevolutionary mercenary bands to attack and prevent the development of the Sandinist revolution. To do this, the U.S. Administration has assigned Honduras its share of participation, by using Honduran soil to (?pacify) the mercenary forces.

By permanently holding joint military maneuvers, Honduras has become a sort of giant U.S. aircraft carrier, from where the aggression against Nicaragua and other Central American countries is organized and planned. The growing arms race and the failure of the Somozist bands that have been beaten to the point of nearly total collapse have forced the Reagan administration to quickly multiply the aid to the counterrevolutionaries, who are now demanding $100 million to survive the collapse.

The Honduran Army is becoming more involved all the time in the warmongering escalation, and the Hondurans are generally concerned over the fact that the Reagan administration is pushing them dangerously into a situation in which the Hondurans will supply the dead.

GUATEMALA

ECONOMY MINISTER REPORTS ON VENEZUELAN VISIT

PA272208 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] Our $130-million debt to the Venezuelan Investment Fund (FIV) is quite advanced in the process of renegotiation as a result of the visit to Caracas by President Cerezo, Economy Minister Elizardo Sosa stated.

The official, who was among the official retinue that visited Venezuela, said he was pleased with the results and that it was a "good experience to see how the Venezuelan Government is totally willing to cooperate and how President Cerezo was applauded for more than 4 minutes by the Venezuelan congressmen."

Minister Sosa said that during his stay in Caracas he spoke with the authorities of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry and the Development Ministry. He presented them a list of Guatemalan products that can be exported now, in the short-term and in the long-term. Those products could be included in the partial scope agreement.

The Venezuelan authorities expressed interest in some of those export products. This will lead to greater exports to that country in the immediate future. I am going to be in touch with the organization of exporters of nontraditional exports so we can join efforts and take advantage of the doors being opened to us; we can sell more and improve our trade balance, he said.

Other important points discussed were those dealing with renegotiation of Guatemala's debt with the FIV. We achieved much progress in this regard, he said. The FIV president is quite willing. The FIV is deciding on procedures to convert the March and June payment deadlines into lines of credit that would be open for a year.

As a result, we would not have to pay the sums that we are obliged to pay the FIV during those two periods. The possibility exists to turn other payment deadlines in September and December into other credits in the same way. I think that this problem will be resolved at the opportune moment. There is great receptiveness, and I believe that our debt with the FIV is in a quite advanced process of renegotiations. The total debt is $130 million.

This year we should pay $59 million. Of that figure, $29 million should be paid in March and June. In other words, we would already practically have half of the debt renegotiated for commercial purposes.

Much of the debt with the FIV is short-term because of Guatemala's deficiency in drawing up and presenting development programs. We could turn those debts into 20-year loans had we drawn up development programs. In our talks with them, we examined the possibility of using funds from that debt to finance feasibility studies for some projects and to subsequently finance these with those funds.

The topic of the petroleum bill was discussed with the Venezuelan Central Bank. I also held talks with the economic cabinet of Venezuela. This was extremely courteous on thier part. I spoke with seven ministers and explained our needs and goals in our debt renegotiation and reorganization plan.

From those talks, one perceived that there is understanding about our needs and about credit facilities for the petroleum bill. There is great progress in this regard. The Bank of Guatemala now has to talk with the IMF and the Venezuelan Central Bank to conclude the details.

Regarding the petroleum bill, during the 120 days of credit we could be using a line of credit of between $35 and $50 million.

At the present time, when Venezuela sells us petroleum, we have to pay 30 days after the shipment date. If in those 30 days we use up the petroleum and need more, we have to pay for the first shipment.

What we would be arranging now would be an agreement to pay the bill in 120 days. That would give us the same facilities that Mexico is already granting us and that naturally helps us in these petroleum orders. I am confident that if we act quickly and intelligently in the economic field, by the middle of next year we will be able to pay the petroleum bill in cash.

Minister Sosa said that after the meeting on the Caribbean Basin which was held in Puerto Rico, contacts were established to trade with those countries and to achieve private investments in our country.

HONDURAS

EDITORIAL LINKS BORDER PROBLEM TO CONTRA AID

PA271541 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Mar 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Washington Informed Us That We Were at War"]

[Text] Just as the Honduran people were preparing to enjoy the Easter holiday, a large-scale incursion by the Nicaraguan Army into Honduras was reported in Washington. The revelation was handled similarly to the announcement of the Yom Kippur war between Egypt and Israel.

The initial reports from the White House were released in the form of unconfirmed "rumors" circulated by officials who asked not to be identified. It appears that this was the first result of last Friday's visit to Honduras by Elliott Abrams, U.S. under secretary of state for inter-American affairs. During that visit he was accompanied by officials of the U.S. Defense Department and the National Security Council.

Honduras' reaction of surprise to the rumors circulating in Washington became even greater when the Honduran authorities said they had no knowledge of an attack. Armed Forces spokesman Arguello said that "there are no reports on that invasion."

The President's press secretary, Lisandro Quezada, meanwhile, interpreted the statements by unidentified White House officials as a link in President Reagan's chain of propaganda efforts designed to obtain approval from the U.S. Congress for $100 million to substantially increase the "contras'" firepower.

On Monday afternoon, 24 March, the Honduran National Security Council, presided over by President Azcona, held a 3-hour meeting after which no statements were made to the press. It was not until yesterday that the Presidency's press office issued a brief communique finally admitting that "the Honduran Government has confirmed reports" that "new incursions by the EPS have taken place in Honduran territory."

The White House's rumors were thus raised to the level of official truth, though possibly not with the prominence the Reagan administration had hoped they would receive. By this time, it was already being reported in Washington that President Reagan, at the request of the Honduran Government, had disbursed $20 million to support the Honduran Army's efforts to deploy troops to the border to deal with the "intrucion" and protect the people who live near the border.

Meanwhile, the contra army that operates out of Honduras and which has sustained constant defeats by the Nicaraguan Army inside Nicaraguan territory also received an extraordinary share of protection because its rearguard was fully covered.

There were no reports of incursions by the Nicaraguan Army in the area bordering Nicaragua in El Paraiso Department. Its inhabitants limited themselves to protesting the looting and sacking of which they are victims of at the hands of the contras.

The theater of operations has evidently shifted to an undetermined area in Olancho Department. However, Olancho legislator Gustavo Gomez Sanchez told the press yesterday afternoon, when the military operation was allegedly in progress, that nothing out of the ordinary was happening in that department, and at the same time he expressed surprise over the reports of a 25-km incursion into Honduras by regular Nicaraguan forces.

The Honduran Government's press communique was really very cautious, undoubtedly because President Azcona is fully aware of his responsibilities to the Honduran people and the international community. He is not the kind of person who will thrust the nation into military adventures lightly. War is a serious affair. It cannot be tampered with to obtain unspreadable aims.

The position adopted by the Honduran Government has limited itself to "urging" the Nicaraguan Government to withdraw its troops "to prevent confrontations that could disrupt peace between the two countries and once again jeopardize the regional peace efforts advanced by the Contadora Group."

The Honduran Government has stressed that the situation is being handled "cautiously," while the citizens are being warned "against unjustified alarm or concern."

For Washington's part, U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger sent U.S. Southern Command Chief General Galvin to Honduras, probably so he could assume control of the situation to prevent any direct involvement in it by U.S. troops.

We are waiting for Washington's decisions in the next several hours or days, while the U.S. Congress continues its deliberations on the touchy issue of the $100 million for the contras.

Nicaragua

ORTEGA ADDRESSES DEFENSE COMMITTEE LEADERS

PA242110 Managua International Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega "to more than 1,000 delegates of the Sandinist Defense Committees" in Managua on 22 March -- live or recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...we know the reasons. Therefore, we must confront our neighbors rationally, firmly, and persuasively: those in Managua, Leon, Chinandega, Masaya, Matagalpa. There is a water problem in Matagalpa; also in Boaco. There is no denying this. There is also a trend for people who live near Matagalpa to move to the city in search of better living conditions, employment, and housing. They believe there are better opportunities in Matagalpa. However, only the basic needs of the population are being covered; outsiders have higher expectations, believing that their problems will be resolved. For instance: How can a peasant who lives near Managua who lacks water service, electricity, transportation, and housing and hears that there are housing, electrical, and road projects under way in Managua, not want to come to Managua to try to improve his situation? That has been our experience, a direct one, gained during the "Face the People" meetings, which are currently being held, mostly with people in the countryside.

The people from the countryside around Managua live in a state of abandonment by administrative and even political efforts. We focus our attention on the urban areas and city people. We fail to look to the rural areas, where an important segment of the peasant population grows corn, beans, vegetables, and fruits. They work hard.

However, they have no incentive to continue growing things because they see no return on their efforts. The revolution makes some effort, but not enough, not right now, in any event.

I was listening to what Housing Minister Rappacciolli [name and title as heard] was saying. We want to improve the living conditions on coffee farms because we want workers to go there to help grow and harvest the coffee. If there is no coffee there will be no foreign currency to purchase the street light systems Managua neighborhood residents request. If there is no coffee there will be no foreign currency with which to purchase raw materials for the Managua factories. Workers would have nothing to work with. If there is no coffee there will be no foreign currency to import pharmaceuticals.

Therefore, above all, we must guarantee minimum conditions for the working rural population growing coffee and cotton; raising livestock; and growing beans, corn, and other basic grains. We must undertake housing and electricity projects there. Things would be different if we had sufficient resources. If that were the case we would say: All right, let's distribute the resources, let's undertake this or that housing project in Managua or others in the fields. Resources could be shared without any problem. We would distribute resources in a way to have electricity in Managua, Masaya, Chinandega, and in every neighborhood. Every street would be paved. All roads, even in the coffee producing areas, would be paved if we possessed sufficient resources. However, we do not.

The economic situation is a difficult one. This goes without saying. You are well aware of that. Therefore, as our resources are limited, we must distribute them rationally. What does this mean? That we must channel those resources primarily into the rural agricultural areas. That is why we told Minister Rappacciolli: Go draw up a plan with the Ministry of Agricultural and Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform for electrification of the most important coffee farms in Regions 1 and 6. We will see how much this costs in foreign exchange, in cordobas. We will make an effort to advance that project even if this means not electrifying any more neighborhoods in the cities. That is where the Sandinist Defense Committee [CDS] leader comes in. He must tell the people in his neighborhood: We must wait until production standards improve, until our situation improves, until the situation returns to normal in the country, until we attain peace. When that happens we will have the resources to install neighborhood lighting. In the meantime, you will have to wait. The peasants and farm hands growing coffee in the war zones in conditions that are much more difficult than ours must have electricity first. They face many more risks than we in the cities. They are generating wealth that is basic to the country's economy.

We must provide housing, electricity, and basic health and education services to those peasants who are growing beans, corn, and sorghum, or raising livestock, so that they are stimulated to produce more. If peasants have no incentive to increase production, it will decrease, and there will be less beans to distribute, less rice, and less corn. If our coffee production decreases, we will have less foreign exchange to import the products our country needs, including raw materials. Therefore, city and neighborhood people must be made aware that they must shoulder a great share of sacrifice. We prefer to repair a road in a farm area -- because coffee, cotton, milk, or whatever can be transported out of that area -- than to fix a street in Managua. This must be clear. We would like to repair the streets of Managua's neighborhoods. We whould like all neighborhood streets to be paved. However, we do not have the funds. We must realize that peasants work very hard.

We complain here when the bus stops 3 or 4 -- or even 10 -- blocks from where we live. However, in the fields peasants walk mile after mile to get to work or do their shopping. Peasants do not perceive distances like city people do.

We must provide peasants with transportation so that they feel their efforts are being recognized. We must offer peasants a proper place in society because they have traditionally been ignored in Nicaragua. This will benefit everyone, because to the extent that production increases in the countryside, we will have more products in the cities. The Interior Trade Ministry will not have so many problems or pressure.

Agricultural production is fundamental. Urban production is important. We acknowledge this. The production sectors in the city also need incentives. However, the urban production sectors depend on agricultural production. When a factory needs a spare part, it must be imported using foreign exchange, which is generated by agricultural activities, including coffee, cotton, meat production, and mining. We must not forget our obligation to pay attention to the country's farm areas, which are basic to our economy. Neighborhood residents must be aware of this and of the limitations we face. They must be told: There is an aggression that imposes certain conditions.

This does not mean all projects in city neighborhoods will disappear. Several projects can be advanced, especially with the participation of the community. We must insist on more of this. The community must become involved in the construction of works that will bring it benefits.

If a school must be built, we must not go through institutional channels. This would mean that the Education Ministry initiates a project: They hire a firm, the firm builds the school, and then turns it over to the ministry. That is not possible. That is not our situation. We can take the building materials so that the community, through self-effort and organization, builds the school. Materials can be sent and sold to the community at cost to repair homes, or build new ones. We are not prepared to answer to all the housing demands. Moreover, the Housing Ministry and National Energy Institute are bound to other, priority interest projects. This does not mean that those neighborhood problems that need attention will be ignored altogether. It is not our intention to abandon neighborhoods, to fend for themselves. It is a matter of building awareness in the neighborhoods to the point where neighborhood residents will set forth demands, and you will echo those demands, even if the resources are nonexistent. Your obligation is to echo those demands: We need water, we need electricity, we need roads. However, the institution will explain whether it is able to comply with those demands or not, and then with the community to explain why the demand cannot be met.

That is why communication between government officials and the CDS is so important. That is a very important concept. Efforts must be geared toward the establishment of concept. Efforts must be geared toward the establishment of constant, open communication. That allows you to explain why electrical or water projects are not carried out, or why a road was not laid. If communications are not good, if the official does not arrive for the meeting he said he would attend, that puts you in a bind. You lose credibility with your community. The revolutionary government is discredited also. And more important that that is the lack of responsibility. If we promise to go to a meeting, we must attend it.

If we could not make it because something urgent came up, then we must send another comrade to listen. If that comrade cannot attend, then we should set another date for the meeting. We must act in a responsible manner. We cannot just simply state we are going to do something, to install the electricity service, and then not do that; or tell them all the light bulbs and other equipment have arrived, but we did not show up to install the service, as the comrades pointed out. Perhaps another commitment came up, that commitment was not met, and no explanation is given.

We cannot choose the easy way out of saying yes to everything. That is demagoguery; that is lying. That cannot be the behavior of a Sandinist revolutionary, of an official of the Sandinist government; it cannot be. Thus, we must confront the problems with reasoning and in an equitable manner. This communication is most important. We are going to work immediately at the presidency to establish a mechanism of communications. I think that it would be easy to communicate with the various regions through the Secretariat of Regional Affairs. In this manner, the regions could have a communications channel with the government to be able to report things that are not operating properly.

Naturally, this should be done after resorting to the regional organizations. Each region has its own organization such as the FSLN, the government, the mass organizations. Therefore, the problem should be discussed first with the regional organization, and tell them that such and such a minister promised to carry out such and such work, and he has not done anything, that there is no explanation, and that the community is angry. That could be the channel for establishing communications with all regions. But we are going to establish a communications channel that will be flowing and permanent so that you can be.... [changes thought] But we must first try to resolve the problem in the region, because if we try to resolve everything through the Presidency we are going to overload the Presidency with problems, and they will not be resolved promptly. The problems must be resolved in the region, there must be pressure in the region; complain in the region. The CDS are compelled to continue being the representatives of the problems of the neighborhood. However, you must also demand an explanation when the problem is not resolved. It is your duty to complain so that you can also give an explanation to the neighborhood. If you are not satisfied with the explanation, you must then point this out; you must point out the mistakes that are made.

As we were saying, nobody in this country is an untouchable. The first point that we always bring up in the [words indistinct] meetings is self-criticism. That is the first thing we bring up at the National Directorate. We ask ourselves how things are operating, what mistakes we have made, because we must be alert to the mistakes we can make at any moment. This is the first thing we do. We are obligated to be receptive to criticism. Under no circumstances can we accept that a Sandinist militant reject criticism. Furthermore, even if the criticism that is being made is unjust, he is obligated to listen first and later to explain, but not to reject criticism or act in a haughty manner. He should not think that just because he is a Sandinist militant, he has a right to everything.

A Sandinist militant cannot act as if he were a privileged person. He cannot act in this manner. He must be subjected constantly and permanently to constructive criticism. He is obligated to reply to that constructive criticism because perhaps some comrade is misunderstanding his actions. He is obligated to explain his actions so that everyone will understand and there will not be a negative image of the Sandinist Front, because the Sandinist Front is what would then be criticized, not him. Thus, you are also obligated to carry out an attitude that is constructive criticism of the militant companeros of the front. The front representatives have a greater responsibility; you have the obligation of complaining because of this greater responsibility. If you see that they make a mistake, or if you think there is some fault, this must be pointed out. You should not be afraid of pointing this out.

A militant who does not accept criticism, who is not receptive to criticism, does not deserve being a Sandinist militant. We do not claim that Sandinist militants are perfect. No, we cannot say that.

Perhaps we have some Sandinist militants who should not be there. There might be thousands of Nicaraguans who are not Sandinist militants, but should already be Sandinist militants. We might be confronted with such a situation.

As for the problems that have been brought up in general, we might say that there is an effort to improve the communications between the CDS and the ministers and officials of the revolutionary government. We must all cooperate in this effort. The officials should understand that you are being pressured by the grass roots, by the people, by the companeros who are asking for housing. A companera says her son asked her if she worked for the Ministry of Housing.

It is only normal that you are under such pressures, and therefore you must provide solutions to the problems. The ministers must understand this and be patient when confronted with your impatience. You must also understand that the ministers have big problems, great responsibilities. You must also be somewhat patient. Sometimes, you are impatient, or perhaps some ministers are careless. We must analyze these problems when these mistakes are committed.

The important thing is to understand that the CDS leaders and the comrades in the Cabinet share responsibilities in the face of a common interest, which is to take better care of the people's needs with the few resources we have. This then forces us to act in a more organized manner, to act in a more coordinated manner, to act in a more intelligent manner, to try to have better communications between the CDS leaders and the government officials. After all, if the government makes a mistake, if the CDS make a mistake, that mistake harms the people, harms the revolution. Thus, we share this common responsibility, which is to work for the benefit of the people.

That is the reason this dialogue this afternoon is so important. It is a continuation of the dialogues we have been holding throughout all these years, but now they are seeking a better organization. We are seeking permanent mechanisms of communication. This is something that the regions have been asking for. In some regions this has been resolved, but in others it has been resolved. We must strive so that this year we will have answered all the demands for communication mechanism. These communication mechanisms must be created where they do not exist. We must advance in that manner. That will allow us to meet the people's needs better. We are also going to answer the questions concerning the Patriotic Military Service, concerning the tasks of the military defense of the revolution.

Comrades, we have a great task to fulfill, and, above all, at a time when our enemies are harassing us. The U.S. Government is harassing us completely. Reagan is harassing us. He is trying to see how he can take advantage of the slightest sign of weakness, within the strong and firm unity of our people. He is trying to take advantage to see if he can enter through there his counterrevolutionary message. He is seeking how to divide the Nicaraguan people, how to weaken the Nicaraguan people again to control the Nicaraguan people. Therefore, we have a great responsibility, because we must confront Reagan's military aggression and the U.S. imperialist policy, to mobilize the Nicaraguan people in the (?great task) of the military defense of the revolution, in revolutionary surveillance, and in the productive tasks, in the social tasks, all of which help to improve the material situation of the people. The distribution of food is such an important task that it has been one of the most discussed subjects this afternoon.

We thus have a common responsibility, and if the CDS are better organized, we will have an important counterpart so that the government officials will be more efficient, so that the government will operate better, so that the government will better resolve the people's needs.

D'ESCOTA SAYS BISHOPS SIDING WITH REAGAN

PA270425 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2337 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 26 Mar (DPA) -- During a television program, Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto described the 10 Nicaraguan bishops who form the Episcopal Conference as "silent accomplices" for "not condemning" the "U.S. aggressions" against the Sandinist revolution.

D'Escoto pointed out that the Episcopal Conference "has taken the side of the aggressors, making themselves appear as perpetrators of high treason against the fatherland." The politician-clergyman pointed out that in Nicaragua "there is no confrontation between church and state, but instead the utilization of certain persons by the U.S. Government," such as Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega.

D'Escoto said that in Latin America the only silent sectors regarding the U.S. aggression are the members of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church hierarchy, who at the same time "allow the church's name to be used to justify the murdering of our people." Father D'Escoto said that if the bishops do not condemn the aggressions, Nicaragua and the entire world will be obliged to "thank the Reagan administration for providing money to massacre the people." He pointed out that with the "game" the bishops have played by "remaining silent" in regard to the aid that President Ronald Reagan is requesting of Congress, "they have become the leading accomplices of the aggression." He pointed out that the U.S.-financed aggression in Nicaragua is facing causes grief and death among the people. More than 18,000 Nicaraguans have been killed in 5 years of war between the anti-Sandinists and regular Nicaraguan troops.

D'Escoto demanded that Cardinal Obando y Bravo give a public explanation, adding that he can explain why he has remained silent or "repeat Reagan's slogan." He recalled that Obando y Bravo and Bishop Vega went to the United States to "slander" the Sandinist government.

Priest Agustin Torranzo, pastor of a church in the northern city of Ocotal, who was also on the program, said that the bishops "are totalitarians and they liken the FSLN (government) to their own behavior." He accused the bishops of wanting to control the clergy, throwing out those who are on the side of the Sandinist process to "make themselves strong and confront and topple the revolution."

A nun, Beatriz Arellano, said that the bishops have separated themselves from the people by not holding dialogues with the members of the church. The television station had invited Cardinal Obando y Bravo to a debate with Father D'Escoto, but the religious leader did not show up. His spokesman, Msgr Bismarck Carballo, said that the Episcopal Conference had requested a talk between Obando y Bravo and President Ortega. Five days ago the bishops issued a communique accusing certain sectors of the church of "politicking," and of "attacks and slander" against the church.

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 54

PA280129 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1201 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Defense Ministry Communique No. 54; issued 27 March 1986]

[Text] The Defense Ministry hereby reports that:

1. During the second half of March, EPS troops dealt overwhelming blows to the mercenary forces at various battle locations as part of the operations that our Army has stepped up in the past few months to increase the process of strategic defeat of the mercenary forces.

2. The most important clashes during the period mentioned occurred at various locations on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, where mercenary forces try to enter our territory.

3. As a preliminary result of such operations executed by our troops, no less than 600 casualties have reportedly been inflicted on the mercenaries, of which 350 are dead. Also, our troops destroyed several important enemy camps, including their main training center. In addition, several means of transportation, including a helicopter, were rendered useless.

4. As a result of these operations, EPS troops suffered 156 casualties, of which 40 are dead and 116 wounded. Most of the latter are not seriously wounded and are recovering. In addition, five EPS soldiers have been reported missing in action in this border sector. According to a Honduran source, two of these men have been captured by Honduran military authorities. Regarding these soldiers, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has instituted the necessary procedures for their prompt return to our homeland.

5. Our permanent, reserve, and militia troops throughout the national territory have continued to execute all those actions aimed at repelling the invasion raids the mercenary forces of the U.S. Administration launch from Honduran territory.

Managua, 27 March 1986.

Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry.

Free fatherland, or death.

EPS SAYS 'HEAVY' CLASHES WITH CONTRAS CONTINUE

PA280026 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 27 Mar 86

[By Denis Garcia Salinas]

[Excerpts] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Playa Hermosa, 15 km from the Honduran border, is the site of heavy clashes that have left a total of 750 casualties among rebels and Sandinists, a military spokesman told ACAN-EFE.

That area is near to the town of Jalapa, which is in a strip [cuna] of Nicaraguan territory that reached the Honduran village of Cifuentes, where the United States and Honduras say that 10 days ago 1,500 Sandinist soldiers entered. The Managua government has denied this report.

Jalapa, approximately 240 km from the capital, for the past several years has been the site of frequent clashes between contra forces and the Sandinist Army; however, considering the number of casualties, these clashes seem to be the heaviest of the past few months.

The military spokesman said that clashes are still taking place in the northern part of the country, and that the Defense Ministry will report further details on the military situation in the war zones later on.

REPORTS ON AID FOR CONTRAS, CLASHES IN HONDURAS

Agreement in U.S. Senate Fails

PA272216 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] By rejecting a Democratic Party proposal for the resumption of direct negotiations between the United States and Nicaragua, the White House eliminated the possibility of a bipartisan agreement in the Senate on the aid for the Somozist counterrevolutionaries requested by President Ronald Reagan.

Democratic Senator James Sasser said that the agreement fell through when John Poindexter, deputy assistant to the President for national security affairs, opposed the inclusion in the proposal of a guarantee that the United States would resume talks with Nicaragua without any preconditions. Poindexter insisted on saying that that solution would be possible only if Nicaragua agrees to begin talks with the Somozist bands that Washington uses as its armed weapon in its attempts to overthrow the Sandinist government.

The Nicaraguan authorities have reiterated their rejection of that U.S. demand, but they are willing to talk with the chief of the revolutionary forces, that is to say, with President Ronald Reagan. It has been announced that the U.S. Senate is to vote today, Thursday, on the presidential request for $100 million in military and logistical aid for the former Somozist guardsmen. Last week that request was rejected by the House of Representatives.

FSLN's Carrion Comments

PA270439 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, said that the international solidarity Nicaragua receives is one of the strongest pillars of its defense. Carrion, who is attending the 17th Czechoslovakian Communist Party Congress, told Cuban agancy PRENSA LATINA that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's maneuvers against Nicaragua will not end with the vote against more aid for the Somozist groups at the U.S. House of Representatives. Carrion added that the danger of a direct U.S. invasion of Nicaragua must not be dismissed.

EPS' Cuadra Denies Invasion

PA272130 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Nicaragua has not invaded and never will invade Honduras. This statement was made in Managua by Nicaraguan Deputy Defense Minister and EPS Chief of Staff Commander Joaquin Cuadra.

At a news conference for U.S. journalists, Cuadra denied that Sandinist troops entered Honduras as the government of Ronald Reagan said. Cuadra charged that it is the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries who invaded Honduras, since they have their bases there, just as the U.S. troops do.

Joaquin Cuadra explained that the Sandinist Army did launch a strong offensive to stop an infiltration by Somozist elements. He noted that the clashes took place in areas close to the common border, but it was never crossed. He said that the counterrevolutionary infiltration attempt was for propaganda purposes and to impress the members of the U.S. House of Representatives prior to the voting on more aid for the Somozists.

EPS Spokesman Refutes Claim

PA272236 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has reiterated that its troops have not entered Honduran territory and said that the EPS is engaged in intense combat against mercenary elements that entered the Nicaraguan department of Nueva Segovia on 10 March. Mari Gill Mulligan, a spokeswoman for the Sandinist Army, stated that today the EPS is fighting counterrevolutionary forces that attacked the border post of El Espino and destroyed a power plant in the town of Yalaguina.

The Nicaraguan Government denounced to the Nonaligned Movement the strange similarity between the situation created by the United States in Central America and the Gulf of Tonkin episode which served Washington as a pretext for directly involving itself in the Vietnam war.

Nicaragua's ambassador to the United Nations, Nora Astorga, has charged that the United States is desperately looking for a political excuse to attack her country and currently the U.S. has resorted to fabrication of an alleged invasion of Honduras by Nicaraguan troops.

Commentary on 'Incursion'

PA272158 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Station commentary, read by Odelma de Cordoba]

[Text] The capitalist's news agencies continue disseminating the version released by the Reagan administration of an alleged incursion of Sandinist troops into Honduran territory. It should be noted that it was the United States, instead of the Honduran Foreign Ministry, which reported the alleged incident, which was fully covered by Western news agencies, which accepted as true the U.S. report.

In the meantime, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry and top government officials denied all reports of incursions into the neighboring country and insisted that all the commotion created by Washington is aimed at exerting pressure on the members of the Senate, who will vote next Thursday on the Reagan petition to give $100 million to the Somozist bands.

The attitude of the Honduran authorities is highly contradictory. Originally the press secretary of President Jose Azcona's government said that there was no Nicaraguan invasion. Soon after, the news media attributed to Honduran authorities statements which were absolutely different, similar to those released in Washington about the alleged incursion of Nicaraguan troops into the neighboring country.

All this seems to indicate that in addition to the state of tension in Libya, the White House also wants to kindle the fire in Central America, using the alleged difference between Nicaragua and Honduras.

It is obvious that Reagan's obsession against Nicaragua has led him to promote another farce which is casting dark shadows over Central America's immediate future. The United States must assume responsibility for this dangerous attitude.

Reagan's 'Poses' Viewed

PA262206 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Station commentary, read by Maruja Garcia]

[Text] Crocodile tears bathed Ronald Reagan's senile face this past weekend when, in a public appearance, he complained about the treatment given him by various local media that were against the granting of $100 million for the mercenaries that are attacking Nicaragua. Using melodramatic poses similar to the ones he used to adopt in his second-rate Hollywood films, Reagan tried to make himself seem like a good boy undeserving of the slightest reproach. In that regard, he insisted on describing as rude and violent some of the articles and commentaries that were published in the United States in the last few days, during which the White House has been determined to increase financial aid to the killers that are draining Nicaragua's blood.

Reagan's excuse for portraying himself as a true saint is his alleged commitment to democracy and liberty, as he said in his public appearance this past weekend. However, his visceral hatred for the Sandinist revolution and his conqueror's airs are not easy for the President to conceal. When it seemed that he had touched the hearts of his most credulous speakers, Reagan could not contain himself, and in an authoritative, almost insane tone, he said that he would continue to pressure the U.S. legislators until he obtained the $100 million necessary for those whom he again described as freedom fighters.

Those who observed the President's behavior could only recall another incident that faithfully reveals Ronald Reagan's character. Now, a local newsman said, he is asking for clemency because of criticism of his policies with regard to Central America; however, only a few days ago he called us sons of bitches when we asked him about the financial links between his government and the overthrown dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

GRANMA ARTICLE ACCUSES U.S. OF 'NEOGLOBALISM'

PA262244 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 86

["What the Press Has To Say" feature by Maruja Garcia and Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Reporter Oscar Ferrer has written an article entitled "On a Road That Leads to Failure," which was published in the Cuban daily GRANMA. It refers to the doctrine of meddling that Washington has traditionally practiced in international relations. The article says that to justify its traditional aggressiveness, the United States has developed several lines of foreign policy that range from the so-called Truman Doctrine to the recent brainchild called neoglobalism, both of which are very similar in their anticommunist and anti-Soviet goals.

It goes on to say that in March 1947, the Truman Doctrine was implemented with the primary objective of trying to contain the forces of socialism, pressure the USSR, and support friends of Washington with military and economic aid. The article adds that in this way, the doctrine became an instrument of meddling and pressure in the internal affairs of other countries.

The GRANMA article goes on to explain that in those days, like now, such policies were justified with arguments such as the defense of U.S. national interests and protection of its so-called national security. The article states that faced with such antihistorical concepts, one must conclude that the U.S. borders are the most extensive in the world because, for the White House, national security is at stake in such distant locations as the Middle East, Central America, Africa, or Central Europe.

GRANMA emphasizes that in practice, the United States is trying to justify its assumed right to meddle on a global scale in the internal affairs of other countries, to use force at will, and to carry out covert or overt operations against governments that displease Washington. GRANMA adds that the Truman Doctrine has changed clothes and presents itself today as neoglobalism, which, like its predecessor, proves that historical changes do not contribute or teach anything to the White House tenants.

Neoglobalism, which has adopted by the present Yankee administration, and thus could well be called the Reagan doctrine -- although the truth is that the President lacks the intellectual capacity to develop a doctrine, however reactionary it might be -- is truly dangerous, because Washington has demonstrated its inclination to carry it to its ultimate consequences, as is evidenced by the anti-Nicaragua obsession, the article notes. The article adds that neoglobalism proclaims the right of the United States to intervene anywhere in the world to overthrow undesirable governments or to bolster friendly regimes.

GRANMA says that the present example is the case of Nicaragua, which is suffering from a morbid campaign, so much so that Reagan himself has claimed to be a contra, at the level of the U.S.-paid mercenary gangs that are attacking that Central American country.

The GRANMA article goes on to say that in the context of neoglobalism, President Reagan recently received the Angolan counterrevolutionary leader Dr Jonas Savimbi and several former Somozist guardsmen and was successful in annulling the Clark Amendment, which prohibited all U.S. military intervention in Angola and help for the Afghan rebels, or for the pro-Pol Pot groups that are attacking Cambodia.

The instrument of these operations is called Committee 208, which receives its name from the While House office in which it operates. It is in charge of overseeing and programming Washington's support for its counterrevolutionary godchildren on an international scale. GRANMA states that in line with the policy of neoglobalism, Reagan has allocated more than $250 million for the war against Nicaragua. GRANMA concludes by saying that the Truman Doctrine could not contain socialism, and neoglobalism will suffer the same fate. Whether Reagan likes it or not, history is on the side of the peoples.

ENVOY ORAMAS BLAMES U.S. FOR UN'S CRISIS

FL252156 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2051 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Cuba has called the international community to stop U.S. irrational and narrow-minded efforts to destroy the United Nations's work of over 40 years.

Speaking at a Nonaligned Coordination Bureau meeting, Cuban Ambassador to the UN Oscar Oramas Oliva underscored that the source of the organization's political crisis is the U.S. Government's crusade against the multilateral system.

The present U.S. Administration has insisted on a fixed and unilateral idea which could be summarized in the following theorem: The United Nations follows its orders or the system will be destroyed, the Cuban diplomat said. Oscar Oramas indicated that a great part of the crisis is related to the dramatic financial situation the United Nations is facing.

Scores U.S. on Libya Situation

FL272338 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Cuba blamed the United States for its aggressive, illegal, and daring behavior in the Libyan coasts and related those facts to the mad crusade launched by the Reagan administration against Nicaragua. Speaking at the UN Security Council, Cuban Ambassador Oscar Oramas denounced the systematic hate campaign and the lies the U.S. Government is saying against Libya. The reasons the U.S. Government are using to justify its attack against Libya are very similar to the ones it uses to support the counterrevolution in the land of Sandino, said the Cuban representative at the United Nations. Oramas underscored that the contradictions between the versions given by Honduras and the United States on the presence of Nicaraguan troops in Honduran territory uncover how insolent the Yankee leadership is by fabricating lies. Last night the UN Security Council began to hold an urgent meeting to examine the situation created by the United States on the Libyan coast. Before the meeting was adjourned until today, the Soviet Union accused the United States of carrying out its state terrorism policy against Libya.

ALARCON DISCUSSES U.S. ROLE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

PM271510 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 8

[Interview with Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Ricardo Alarcon by Jose Comas in Havana; date not given]

[Text] "The disagreements between the United States and the Latin American governments are constantly increasing," EL PAIS' special correspondent in Havana was told recently by Ricardo Alarcon, vice minister of foreign relations and candidate member of the Central Committee of the (ruling) Communist Party of Cuba (PCC). "The increasingly evident problem in Latin America is the defense of the fundamental principle of noninterference. The more emphasis is placed on this principle the more positive the results will be," said Alarcon, who sees the clash between U.S. and Central America's interests as the key to the region's crisis.

Ricardo Alarcon believes that everything was made clear during the visit to Washington by the eight foreign ministers of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela) and the Lima Support Group (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Peru) to present the conclusions of the Caraballeda (Venezuela) meeting.

The Cuban vice minister believes that "as far as Reagan is concerned the solution is to overthrow the Sandinists -- not negotiation." Alarcon claimed that the United States asserts its imperial right to impose its will. There is an increasingly blatant contradiction between the United States and Latin America due to "Reagan's pathological ignorance of the world -- it is total schizophrenia."

The high-level Cuban official backed up his argument with the example of the recent disagreements between Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias and the Reagan administration over aid to the Nicaraguan contras: "Arias is no supporter of Sandinism, but his viewpoint differs from that of the United States."

Alarcon believes that, objectively, the U.S. situation is more unfavorable not only because of the existing political confrontation in Central America but also because of the actual policy of the United States, which greatly underestimates the importance of international opinion. "Reagan's rationale works for the U.S. Congress, but he underestimates international public opinion," Alarcon said.

According to the vice minister "not even the Honduran Army wants to appear compromised by this policy. Only Duarte supports the policy of backing for the contras." Alarcon argues that "Arias won the elections in Costa Rica thanks to his stand in defense of neutrality and noninterference in the conflict with Nicaragua" and attaches great importance to the agreement between Costa Rica and Nicaragua on monitoring their shared border, which conflicts with U.S. policy.

"If this agreement is implemented and produces results, Nicaragua's southern border will grow calmer, while Reagan is urging the U.S. Congress to grant funds to ensure the contrary," he said.

Alarcon believes that this problem cannot be resolved in the United States within the context of the executive but that the legislative authorities "have the opportunity to remedy the situation." During the interview the Cuban deputy minister savored a Cohibas cigar. Alarcon believes that the Nicaraguan contras "have shown that they lack any real military capability." If they had a little internal support, a real capability," he added, "they would have taken at least one city."

Alarcon believes that the situation will not alter much even if the United States does approve the $100 million aid to the contras: "The danger of this policy is that, first, the $100 million will be approved, and then this path will lead to a Vietnam. Each new step takes them further away from Latin America and will not bring victory to the contras."

At the close of the Third PCC Congress on 7 February Fidel Castro announced that Cuba will step up its aid to Nicaragua as much as possible "if Reagan increases his help to the Somozist gangs."

With regard to aid to other movements, such as the Salvadoran guerrillas, Alarcon said that "it is impossible to create a logistical flow to El Salvador via Honduras. It would take a genius to achieve it."

The Cuban vice minister perceives "a growing militarization of Honduran society." "There was an increase of repression during the last democratic government greater even than that which occurred under the military government. This danger existed in Costa Rica, too. The major issue in the elections was neutrality, owing to the new element constituted by the contra presence, which creates problems."

According to Alarcon there is a danger of a "democratic rhetoric together with a strengthening of the military apparatus," and he cited as an example the danger of "leaving the Honduran civilian regime hollow." However, the new Costa Rican president, Arias, is an intelligent anti-Sandinist" [quotation marks as published] and such politicians "reduce the scope" for Reagan.

ANC'S TAMBO COMMENTS ON SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION

FL270049 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 86

[By Gisela Bell Heredia]

[Text] The nature and contents of the struggle the South African people are presently waging, the economic situation the apartheid regime is facing, and the press censorship have been highlighted in Havana by the president of the African National Congress [ANC] of South Africa, Oliver Tambo. With national and foreign journalists in attendance at the House of Africa, the South African leader underscored that violence has stirred the people's rage and that the people have given everything they have been able to give in this struggle and noted:

[Begin recording, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] The rage is not separated from the organized nature of the struggle. There are set objectives that the people are trying to achieve, objectives defined by the African National Congress. In the achievement of those objectives we angrily face the repressive forces. [end recording]

Oliver Tambo also said that it is necessary that the United States yield to the resistance of the attacked small states and added that its imperialist actions against Libya should be strongly condemned.

Departure Statement

FL271844 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] The South African people's struggle can no longer be checked, Oliver Tambo, ANC president, said prior to departure from our country. Oliver Tambo said today his visit to Cuba had been extraordinarily fruitful.

[Begin recording, in English with consecutive Spanish translation] What else can I say; it has been a great visit. We should like to say farewell to socialist Cuba. We hope to return someday soon with news of great victories. [end recording]

Tambo expressed his gratitude to the Cuban people and to their party, state, and government for his pleasant stay of work and cooperation. At the airport to bid farewell to the distinguished visitor were Jorge Risquet Valdes and Esteban Lazo, members of the Politburo. Also present at the air terminal were members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba.

RESOLUTIONS OF NONALIGNED NEWS POOL FINAL SESSION

PA260008 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Report by Alberto Martinez from the Palace of Conventions in Havana]

[Text] Greetings. The fourth general conference of the pool of news agencies of the nonaligned countries concluded today in Havana. The delegations of the 52 countries represented at the meeting all agreed that the eighth summit of the movement to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in September should have effective coverage. The participants at the meeting approved the Havana action plan, a document that expresses the pool's decision to increase the dissemination of news from Third World countries, including economic news.

They also agreed to stress information on threats and hostile actions against Nicaragua and the initiatives that will allow a negotiated political solution in Central America. The pool of news agencies will also report on the aggression against the African countries on the front line.

During the closing session, resolutions were approved on assistance to be given to the media of the national liberation movements and to the ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, ZIANA, for the efficient coverage of the eighth summit of the movement.

The participants at the meeting also agreed to increase the number of members of the pool's coordinating committee to 32. The coordinating committe has 6 Latin Ameria, 10 Asian, 1 European, and 15 African countries as members.

The struggle for a new international information order, cooperation among the agencies that make up the pool and the UN, and confronting the pressure of the trans-national news agencies were issues that all the participants agreed upon. For the next 3 years Cuba will head the pool of news agencies of the nonaligned countries, and Pedro Margolles, PRENSA LATINA director general, was appointed to head the coordinating committee. During the closing session, Margolles urged the pool to strengthen its work and improve the quality of information. He said that the pool is developing and will continue to work to achieve the goal for which it was created 10 years ago.

Undoubtedly, this meeting held in Havana has been an important step in the development of the pool and in the cooperation among the pool members. The pool's coordination committee will meet again early next year in Peru.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL WITH SOVIET UNION SIGNED

FL262059 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1827 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and Ernesto Melendez, minister president of Cuba's State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE] have signed a protocol after bilateral talks were held. In Moscow, the main objectives of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries were discussed, especially those with the highest priority for the beginning of the 1986-1990 5-year period. They also exchanged views on the Soviet-Cuban intergovernment joint commission meeting to be held in Havana in April. Aleksandr Kachanov, first deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and CECE Vice President Jaime Puig [as heard] as well as other Soviet and Cuban officials were present during the protocol signing ceremony.

SOVIET SHIP BRINGS AID FOR HURRICANE REPAIRS

FL280007 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] The Soviet ship Dimitri Gulia has arrived at the Port of Matanzas with close to 12,400 tons of aluminum sheets, ferrous metals, pipes, bars, tires, and levers, among other goods as part of the Soviet aid to Cuba to repair the damages caused by Hurricane Kate. Matanzas port workers agreed in a meeting to unload the ship with voluntary work in record time.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS INCREASED TRADE WITH CARICOM

FL242358 Bridgetown CANA in English 2231 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 24, CANA -- Representatives from Caricom and the Dominican Republic reached broad understanding on a range of matters in which they hope to pursue increased efforts to deepen co-operation, the secretariat said today. The two-day talks, which ended yesterday, were the first of the Caricom/Dominican Republic Joint Technical Group, and covered trade, agriculture, transportation, health, education and training, culture, and industrial relations.

The secretariat said the two sides recognised that there was potential for increasing trade between the Dominican Republic and Caricom, a grouping of 13 English-speaking Caribbean states. The statement from the secretariat continued: They agreed that they will continue to study and consult together on the type of framework within which trade between the two sides could develop.

During the talks, representatives from both sides recognised that trade between the two sides, at the moment, constituted a very small proportion of their total trades. However, recognising the potential for increasing trade between the two sides, they agreed that, to this end, they would co-operate in identifying possibilities for promoting trade missions encouraging attendance at, and participating in, trade fairs and exhibitions, by either side. The two parties also agreed to look for avenues for co-operation in providing trade information between themselves and in developing links between the trade information systems in the Dominican Republic and in Caricom.

The Caricom side gave information on a number of programmes in the field of agriculture in which there could be possibilities for co-operation with the Dominican Republic. The main areas high-lighted were agricultural research, training, and production/marketing information systems.

For their part, the representatives from the Dominican Republic indicated that they would provide to Caricom similar information on research and training programmes. The two sides exchanged detailed information in the areas of health, education, culture, and labour. They identified specific areas for further exchanges. In the area of health, attention will be directed to human resources development, critical supplies (in particular essential drugs) and equipment, population and development, nutrition, health information, environmental protection, and disease control. In education, areas identified for exchange of information were adult literacy, language training, and technical/vocation education. In the field of culture, the two sides agreed that they would maintain contact in relation to the next Carifesta (due to be held in Jamaica in 1988) and for celebrations concerning the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean.

Both sides also agreed to exchange information on studies being conducted on matters such as labour legislation, personnel administration, and social security.

This first meeting of the Joint Technical Group between Caricom and the Dominican Republic will be followed by a similar meeting of the Joint Technical Group between Suriname and Caricom in the first week of April, and later between Haiti and Caricom at a date to be determined, the statement concluded.

BAHAMAS

CUBA'S MALMIERCA, DELEGATION ARRIVE FOR TALKS

FL271645 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] A high-level Cuban delegation headed by the minister of foreign affairs is here in Nassau. The delegation arrived yesterday to talk to our government officials, including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affiars the Honorable Clement Maynard. A 2d day of talks is scheduled for today.

Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs Isidoro Malmierca Peoli is in Nassau for talks with Bahamian Foreign Affairs Minister the Honorable Clement Maynard and other government officials. Accompanied by a nine-member delegation, Mr Malmierca was met at the airport by Minister Maynard and other officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Mr Maynard officially welcomed Mr Malmierca to our shores.

[Begin recording] There are matters of bilateral importance which ought to be discussed from time to time. [Words indistinct] A dialogue is still the best means of arriving at mutually satisfactory solutions. Your visit is a brief one unfortunately. However, I hope and my delegation hopes that it will be possible for you and others to sample some of our Bahamian delights. [end recording]

In response, Mr Malmierca said he is looking forward to working with Bahamians on friendly [words indistinct]. The foreign ministers will discuss bilateral matters of mutual interest. Mr Malmierca's visit is in reciprocation of Minister Maynard's trip to Cuba last summer. Last night, Mr Malmierca and his delegation were hosted to a cocktail reception and dinner by Mr and Mrs Maynard. Mr Malmierca returns to Cuba this evening.

DOMINICA

CHARLES SAYS LIBYA PROVIDES FUNDS TO OPPOSITION

FL271154 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Dominican Prime Minister Eugenia Charles says she has more proof of what she calls Libyan interference in Dominican affairs. She says two leading opposition members are in Libya right now.

In commenting on the current U.S.-Libyan conflict, Miss Charles did not support Libya's claim to the Gulf of Sidra, and she accused Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of financing terrorism. She says at least one parliamentarian in Dominica has benefited from Libyan funds. She said the opposition parliamentary leader Michael Douglas and his brother Rosie are in Libya now. However, one opposition source said the party leader is in Britain.

During a recent debate in the Dominican House of Assembly, Rosie Douglas was identified as a member of a Libyan-funded Caribbean national movement by documents furnished by the U.S. State Department. Mr Douglas confirmed he was a member of the Caribbean National Council, but he said the Council was dedicated to Caribbean independence.

According to the U.S. State Department document, such an organization is committed to the violent overthrow of democratic institutions in the region.

GRENADA

SALFARLIE APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA

FL271426 Bridgetown CANA in English 1406 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 27, CANA -- Grenada today announced the appointment of former University of the West Indies Lecturer James Salfarlie as its new ambassador to Venezuela. The Government Information Service (GIS) said Salfarlie, 45, who holds a masters degree in international relations from the University of London took up his appointment on March 7.

Grenada has been without an envoy in Caracas since the island recalled Ambassador Matthew Williams in the aftermath of the October 1983 U.S.-led invasion which brought an end to the leftwing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG). Relations between Grenada and Venezuela have been increasing in recent years with the South American Republic providing assistance to St Georges in sports and health.

HAITI

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES LIFTING OF CURFEW

FL261526 Bridgetown CANA in English 1518 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, March 26, CANA-Reuter -- Haiti's new rulers have announced the lifing from today of a curfew in effect since the overthrow of desposed dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier six weeks ago. The announcement yesterday came after 24 hours of some of the most intense protest so far against the military-dominated National Council which took power in the Caribbean nation when Duvalier fled to France on February 7. The anti-government campaign -- which Monday included a 15,000-strong march on the national palace and a night of street bonfires and police warning shots -- is pressing for the replacement of the three-man council with an interim civilian government.

During Monday's march, the mostly youthful protesters chanted angry slogans demanding an end to the curfew. The curfew was pushed back from 8 p.m. to midnight last night. The move was another in a long series of reactions by Council President Lieutenant General Henri Namphy to popular pressures against the new government. Last Friday he removed three of the original six council members whose past links to Duvalier and his father Francois Papa Doc Duvalier has ignited a storm of protest.

TRINIDAD-TOBA[illegible]

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO UK PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

FL272116 Bridgetown CANA in English 1812 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 27, CANA -- New Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Dr Basil Ince, Yesterday presented his credentials to Queen Elizabeth II in London, the GUARDIAN newspaper reported today. Ince, a former foreign minister, later hosted a reception at the high commission's office on Belgrave Square for nationals living in Britain and diplomats based in London. Everything went well at the Palace, said Ince in his first public statement after presenting his credentials. I now look forward to a useful and successful stay at the Court of St James.

FBIS

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COSTA RICA'S MONGE OPENS IDB MEETING IN SAN JOSE

PA250547 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2011 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] San Jose, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge today asked the wealthy creditors of the small countries to end injustice in the renegotiation of the foreign debt. He made this request before almost 3,000 delegates, among them economy and finance ministers of America, Asia, and Europe, at the opening of the 28th annual meeting of the IDB governors.

Setting the case of Costa Rica, which is the same as other countries of similar dimensions, Monge said that "the conditions of renegotiating their debt are more severe than those obtained by larger countries in the area. [quotation marks as received] Monge said that this "historically does not make sense. They do not fear us because we do not pose a threat to the international financial system." He said: "What is being done is increasing the problems of developing countries, because when harsher conditions are imposed on weaker economies it makes it more difficult for us to fulfill out commitments." In his opening speech, Monge said that there is a possibility that the "great sin of the small debtor countries" who do not threaten the international financial system "might become their great virtue."

Monge stressed that "it is possible for the financial community to accept renegotiating conditions according to the relative weakenss of our economies." He said that to further that aim, Costa Rica, with the moral right it has after having met "with sacrifices" its international commitments, poses the urgent need "to share the costs with the creditor nations in paying the debt, and the need to eliminate injustice in the renegotiations of the small nations' debts." Monge announced that his government has prepared a program "that will allow our creditors to exchange currency debts for deeds in local currency, aimed at investing in new industries." After declaring the 28th meeting of the IDB governors officially opened, President Monge said that the IDB's role in Costa Rica's economic and social development is "historic and fundamental."

Latin America Losing Capital

PA280450 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 6 A

[Editorial: "Serious Impoverishment"]

[Text] The IDB annual activities report made public at this organization's meeting in Costa Rica indicates that Latin America has experienced a rapid impoverishment and underdevelopment during the past 4 years. The loss of capital has been constant since 1982. A subcontinent traditionally affected by the backwardness of large social groups and by an unequal distribution of wealth, over the past 4 years has become a full exporter of liquid capital to industrialized countries. In 1985 the bloodletting totalled $30 billion which, added to that of the three previous years, yields a total that surpasses $100 billion. Unfortunately, the regression continues. The IDB reports, for example, that in 1984 Latin America's gross internal investment dropped by more than $50 billion, making the region fall below the levels established in 1974. The figures are exact: All the progress made in a decade was lost due to the depression that began in 1982 and which is not showing signs of ending. The international financial crisis has forced the countries in the region to turn toward export markets in search of the foreign exchange essential for the payment of their debts. This same fact coincides with a depreciation of raw materials and an increasingly acute deterioration of foreign exchange terms, but also with a loss in the dynamics of manufactured exports. Latin America cannot continue on this path of improverishment and loss of capital. After 4 years of efforts, another crisis is approaching, but this time the region is responsible for stopping this economically absurd situation.

MINISTRY PLEDGES REDOUBLED SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA

PA301818 Paris AFP in Spanish 1620 GMT 30 Mar 86

[By Juan Araya]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (AFP) -- The Argentine Government will redouble its efforts in the forthcoming Contadora Group meeting to find new alternatives that will prevent the Central American situation from worsening, Foreign Ministry sources disclosed today in Buenos Aires. As a member of the Support Group of the Contadora Group -- in addition to Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay -- Argentina will work to prevent by all means a choice between supporting or opposing the U.S. strategy of offering economic and military aid to the contras, who are fighting against the Sandinist regime of Nicaragua, according to the San Martin Palace (Foreign Ministry site) spokesmen.

The Argentine Government will also maintain its stand of rejecting any alignment with the sectors in conflict and will insist that the basic solution in the region should abide by the points covered in the Carabelleda document, signed in Carabelleda, Venezuela, at the end of 1985. This document basically urges the United States to suspend support to the anti-Sandinists and urges Nicaragua to adopt a domestic democracy.

The delicate balance that Argentine diplomacy will try to preserve will be reflected next Wednesday at the Senate, when it learns of a draft resolution presented by pro-government legislator Ricardo Lafferiere. The resolution proposes that any funds approved by the U.S. Congress be channeled through the Contadora Group. The president of the Senate Foreign Ministry Commission, Adolfo Gass, said that the proposal "might be one possibility." but he admitted that the probability that it will be approved is rather limited.

However, he pointed out that it might "call attention" to the fact that the Honduran-Nicaraguan crisis is worsening and that the Reagan administration is getting more involved in the region.

Diplomatic sources in Buenos Aires stated that Argentina has ruled out any automatic alignment with the United States concerning the Central American situation and that this stand has led to differences between the State Department and the Foreign Ministry.

DEFENSE MINISTER LOPEZ LEAVES FOR FRG

PY302034 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Mar 86 p 13

[Text] (NA-PYN) -- Defence Minister German Lopez refused to make declarations to the press when he left for Bonn on a scheduled flight yesterday to meet his West German counterpart Manfred Woerner and to update himself on aspects of that country's military organization. Defence Minister Woerner -- who invited Lopez -- will return the visit and come to Buenos Aires towards the end of May. Lopez will also meet top West German brass and discuss the relationship between the armed forces and government in West Germany as well as possibly visiting munitions plants and military academies. The first meeting of the two ministers is slated for Wednesday.

Meanwhile newspaper reports indicate one of the submarines which West Germany is building for the Argentine Navy has been sold to a third country because of budget problems. Defence production secretary Daniel Larriqueta admitted "conversations are taking place with different friendly countries" but indicated the sale had "not yet" been closed. Lopez and Woerner are also expected to discuss the submarine deal.

GROUP TO COMMEMORATE FALKLANDS ISLANDS WAR

PY281705 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1430 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (DYN) -- The Center of Volunteers for the Fatherland today reported that its president, Osvaldo Destefanis, is sailing south with relatives of soldiers killed during the war with Great Britain over the possession of the Malvinas Islands. The center reported that to commemorate the date when Argentine forces disembarked on the Malvinas Islands, Destefanis and those accompanying him will throw a wreath near the site where the General Belgrano cruiser was sunk.

JOURNALISTS FROM CANCELED RADIO SHOW PROTEST

PY302054 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Mar 86 p 13

[Text] (DYN) -- Journalists from the radio former weekend Show Manana, Tarde y Noche (aired until the first week of March when it was suddenly lifted) challenged the new radio authorities' decision to "leave professionals without a job," contending such a move is typical of "measures adopted previous to the current democratic government." The radio show, created and produced by Arturo Cavallo, managed to take third place in audience rating and was described as "the best Argentine radio programme" by various media. The journalists stressed the show "never had to retract statements nor was asked for the right to reply and always made a point of investigating its stories to the very end.

BRIEFS

RAILWAY CARS TO YUGOSLAVIA -- The bid of an Argentine enterprise that produces railway sleepers has been accepted by the Yugoslav Railway Enterprise. Consequently, Santiago del Estero enterprise will sell a total of 140,000 sleepers worth $7 million to Yugoslavia. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 86 PY]

ARGENTINE STEEL TO JAPAN -- Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (TELAM) -- The Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association will ship approximately 10,000 tons of hot rolled steel to Japan in the first lot of quarterly shipments to start next March or April. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0238 GMT 28 Feb 86 PY]

ARGENTINE-PERUVIAN AGREEMENT -- Lima, 27 Mar (AFP) -- Today the Peruvian Government agreed to the implementation of an agreement by which Argentina will extend a credit of $100 million for Peru to purchase Argentine goods. The credit will be paid off in quarterly installments, starting in 9 months, and the interest rate will be established by the current reciprocal credit agreement between the central banks of the two countries. Peru is mainly interested in beef, wheat, and milk by-products. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2116 GMT 27 Mar 86 PY]

BEDREGAL DENIES RENEWING RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PY291407 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has said that the government will not reconsider, under any circumstances, the appointment of Jorge Siles Salinas as new Bolivian consul in Chile, because the president has the constitutional power to make such appointments. Following are the explanations that Guillermo Bedregal gave regarding this subject:

[Begin recording] This is a decision by the president and, according to the law, the president has all the necessary power to make such decisions. The present government basically abides by the constitutional principles, and this means that it safeguards its own legal powers and respects those of the other branches of the state. [end recording]

Bedregal then asserted that Bolivia has at no time proposed the resumption of diplomatic relations with Chile. According to Bedregal, this is only a rumor invented by people who are enemies of the current regime.

[Begin recording] No one has spoken about the government resuming diplomatic relations with Chile, absolutely no one. Such an idea exists only in the heads of those who wish that the government would make a mistake and who wish to encourage it. The government is not so stupid as to make this kind of mistake. [end recording]

BARTHELEMY DENOUNCES 'DESTABILIZATION EFFORTS'

PY280132 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2235 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 27 Mar (EFE) -- Bolivian Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy today reported efforts aimed at creating confrontations and bloodshed to destabilize the government and the Bolivian democratic process. In a press conference 2 hours after a dynamite attack against the U.S. Embassy, Barthelemy warned of the government's disposition to enforce the state of siege if the security measures of state organizations cannot control social disruption.

The threat against the government has emerged from the urban and rural teacher unions which in 2 months of striking have been able to promote real solidarity of the people with teachers' salary demands. In addition to that, the mining distructs are protesting their economic situation, and the Bolivian University Federation is carrying out demonstrations for a higher education budget. In Cochabama, 2 students were wounded and approximately 50 were arrested during a demonstration organized by the National Defense Committee for Education, which was supported by the Labor Federation, the Teachers Federation, and the Peasant and University Confederations.

Barthelemy said that the way the street protests are being carried out has become a dangerous public threat, because some sectors have taken advantage of this situation to create confrontations with the police. The minister said: "We will force the organizations responsible for the protests to take responsibility for the damage and confrontations that may occur during the demonstrations,and we will subject them to legal sanctions." He added: "the government can guarantee social peace and the people's tranquillity because the political situation is under control despite the union actions and social protests resulting form the economic crisis which are used by interested groups to create disturbances."

Barthelemy said that "there are civilians who carry arms and try to cause tragic deaths and injuries, using the victims as martyrs against the government." He pointed out that intelligence organizations had detected in Oruro, 239 km south of La Paz, that that city has become a subversive center with the support of some mining unions.

The minister also presented to reporters the brothers Justo and Victor Ordonez Palza. Justo is 23 years old, and Victor is a minor. They both live in Oruro. The minister said that weapons of the type used by the Army were confiscated. Barthelemy said that mine leader Jose Ordonez of the San Jose mine is responsible for the weapons and that a warrant for his arrest was ordered because he is the arms supplier. One of the brothers, who said he belongs to the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), pointed out that the arms, which include "Mauser" rifles from the 1950s, were never used and that he had it in his house for 2 years.

Meanwhile, political sectors today said that the government accusations are a pretext to threaten the population and to stop the growing social protest in view of the announcement of a new tax reform which was rejected by the workers, peasants, and middle class because "they go against the interests of the majority."

COB TO ORGANIZE RESISTANCE TO TAX REFORM

PY272340 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0136 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 26 Mar (EFE) -- The Bolivian Workers Confederation (COB) has called on the workers to resist the government's decision to implement the Tax Reform Law.

In a document released today, the COB protests the government's "criminal" intention to levy taxes on the entire population's consumption, income, and property. The tax code reform is meant to collect funds to back the new economic policy, and government considers it vital to the functioning of the state.

In turn, COB affirms that "the tax reform law was drafted to comply with the demands of the IMF, disregarding the criminal economic situation of the country and the dramatic conditions in which the large national majorities are living." The COB document further says that "the attempt to increase tax revenues in view of the situation of profound economic recession brought about by the government's economic policy is at odds with the universal principle that the collection of revenues to finance the state apparatus should be directly proportional to the volume of economic activity."

Only people with fixed incomes are complying with their tax obligations, while the level of tax evasion is high in the economically better of sectors, the COB document says. The COB points out that the passage of the tax reform bill in Congress will affect lower and middle sectors. On the other hand, the 10 percent across-the-board income tax amounts to confiscation of the already meager earnings of the people, adds the COB document.

According to the COB, the levying of taxes on peasants will only compound the problem created by the land-expropriation process being executed by moneyed groups, which tends to reconstitute the large land estates reducing the benefits of the Agrarian Reform.

GOVERNMENT SAYS STRIKING TEACHERS' JOBS 'VACANT'

PY280236 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The national government has declared striking teachers' positions vacant. In order to solve the education problem, President Victor Paz Estenssoro signed a decree to that effect, which was announced by the education minister.

The decree calls for a radical solution to the education problem. No official reaction has yet been heard from teacher union organizations.

The government decree leaves the teachers without work but with the option of returning to teaching if they accept the salaries recently established by the government.

COCAINE SEIZED, TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

PY310056 Paris AFP in Spanish 1525 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 30 Mar (AFP) -- It was officially reported in La Paz today that over the past 10 days the Antinarcotics Directorate of the Bolivian Police seized 127 kg of cocaine throughout the country and arrested 12 people involved in drug trafficking.

The Antinarcotics Directorate has stated that personnel trained in the antinarcotics struggle are conducting important actions to curb illegal drug trafficking, patrolling airports and key towns involved in drug trafficking.

In addition, it has been stated that Cochabamba, in central Bolivia, is the district where more cocaine sulphate and hydrochloride operations take place because the Chapare coca-leaf producing area is best suited for the activities of drug traffickers.

In conclusion, it was reported that the Leopards, an elite group advised by experts from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, will control the Chapare tropical area.

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK -- According to a preliminary report issued by the Peasant Affairs Ministry, a total of 8,000 head of cattle have caught foot-and-mouth disease in the flooded areas of La Paz Department. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p 9 PY]

NONTRADITIONAL EXPORTS -- According to Industry Under Secretary Fedor Perez Alcala, Bolivian exports of nontraditional goods during 1985 amounted to $21 million. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p 9 PY]

AGREEMENT WITH ITALY -- An agreement signed between the Italian and the Bolivian Governments will make it possible for the Mineral Metallurgical Investigations Institute (IIMM) in Oruro to install a hydrometallurgical pilot plant for the recovery of gold and silver contained in the minerals wolfram, lead, zinc, antimony, copper, tin, arsenopyrite, and others. Current gold recovery percentage is 30-35 but it could be increased to 80-85 with new method. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 1 PY]

TREASURY REPORTS TAX EVASION -- La Paz, 2 Mar (EFE) -- The government has reported that Bolivian treasury revenues only reached 31 percent of the national budget because of extensive tax evasion. Officials have reported that there are 73,574 businesses in Bolivia but only 21,422 are registered and only 50 percent of those submit annual tax reports. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0253 GMT 3 Mar 86 PY]

GOVERNMENT DENIES TIES WITH CHILE FROZEN

PY281732 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1537 GMT 38 Mar 86

[Text] Brasilia -- 28 Mar (EFE) -- Fernando Melho, the spokesman for the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, today told EFE that Brazilian relations with Chile are normal. He attributed to the local press the report of an alleged order from President Jose Sarney to "freeze" relations with Pinochet. Raul Schmidt, the new Chilean ambassador, presented his credentials to the Brazilian president on 25 March. On the following day CORREO BRASILIENSE said that the Chilean diplomat will not hold his position for very long.

Referring to a document prepared at some government level, CORREO BRASILIENSE said that Ambassador Schmidt is one of the "hardliners" of the Chilean Foreign Ministry and that he is against human right policies and the solution of the Bolivian maritime problem.

The newspaper reported that the evaluation of the ambassador was disclosed in a press communique delivered along with the ambassador's resume. Planalto Palace denied that it officially distributed the press communique, but it has been learned that an official of the Chilean Embassy was able to get a copy through other channels. Oswaldo Yanes, the spokesman of the Chilean Embassy, told EFE on the telephone that "no public comments will be made."

JORNAL DE BRASILIA also reported that Planalto Palace ordered that relations with Chile "be restricted to the minimum level so long as dictator Augusto Pinochet insists on holding on to power."

SECOND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE LAUNCHED

PA290114 Paris AFP in Spanish 0035 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Kourou, French Guiana, 28 Mar (AFP) -- The second Brazilian telecommunications satellite, Brasilsat S-2, was placed today in orbit on the 17th launch of the European rocket Ariane III, an improved model of the Ariane. It was launched from the Kourou Space Center.

Brasilsat must function for 8 years in a geostationary orbit (altitude 36,000 km), which means that it will give the impression of being motionless on a vertical path over the Brazilian-Colombian border (70 degrees longitude west, over the Equator).

This satellite has 24 retransmission channels, equivalent to 12,000 telephone lines or 24 television channels. Brasilsat S-2, which will provide television, telephone, telex, and data transmission services, looks like a huge drum. It weighs 671 kg in orbit and 1,140 kg on earth.

The first such satellite was launched by Ariane on 8 February 1985. The operational center in charge of watching the satellites for as long as they exist, is in Guaratiba, near Rio de Janeiro. The two Brasilsats were built by the Canadian enterprise Star Aerospace Limited. They belong to the Brazilian Telecommunications Enterprise, a Brazilian public enterprise responsible for the development and work of telecommunications services in that country.

The U.S. satellite, Gstar-2, which was put in orbit 2 minutes before the Brasilsat S-2, is the fifth satellite of the GTE Spacenet Society which has been transported by the European rocket since 1984. Its 16 channels can be rented to enterprises for visual conferences. They can also be used for retransmitting information.

DETAILS ON NOBISTOR ARMS CARGO CONFISCATION

PY302209 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2358 GMT 29 Mar 86

[By Adalid Cabrera Lemuz]

[Excerpts] Rio de Janeiro, 29 Mar (EFE) -- According to preliminary reports released today by the Brazilian Federal Police, the Argentine arms cargo that was confiscated on 14 March at the Rio de Janeiro port was intended to equip a rebel movement trying to overthrow the government of Ghana.

Fabio Calheiros Wanderley, the superintendent of the Rio de Janeiro Federal Police, said that the Nobistor was also carrying maps and instructions for an operational attack of several military targets by the rebel group in Accra.

The superintendent did not confirm if the six-ton cargo of machine guns, automatic rifles, grenades, ammunition, communications equipment, and first-aid material was going to be transferred from the Nobistor to a larger ship at high sea, but he indicated that there are indications that such an operation was planned.

The Ghanaian Government alerted Brazilian officials that the arms cargo was going to be transferred to another ship across the Brazilian coast where 80 Ghanaian rebels were waiting.

According to the maps found by the Brazilian police on the Nobistor, the alleged targets of the rebels in Accra were 14 police posts, a military training center, radio and television stations, the Kotoca airport, and the installations of the telecommunication services.

The Ric de Janeiro Federal Police, who are in charge of the investigation, said that the 18 crew members of the Panamanian ship are still being held in police facilities and that the Brazilian Federal Court will have to decide about extradition to Argentina and the United States. The eight U.S. citizens who are members of the crew are Vietnam veterans who were contracted in the United States to protect the cargo until it reached Ghana. The chief of the mercenaries, John Dee Early, said that his mission was to protect the arms until they got to Ghana. The Brazilian police investigators said that apparently the U.S. mercenaries were the ones who decided not to deliver the arms to the rebels on the Buenos Aires-Accra route and to pressure the commander of the Argentine ship, Orlando Galeardoni, to anchor at the Rio de Janeiro port.

DEL VALLE POSTPONES APRIL TRIP TO FAR EAST

PY280226 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has postponed his trip scheduled for next month to Indonesia, Pakistan, and Thailand. The official announcement was made in a Foreign Ministry communique. The note said the trip was postponed because of service obligations and especially so the foreign minister could continue to supervise personally the efforts to respond to the UN special relator [as heard] on human rights.

The communique added that the foreign minister has postponed the trip to take care of other ministerial commitments, including preparations for the visit of the Peruvian foreign minister in May. The visit of Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle to Indonesia, Pakistan, and Thailand was postponed, in common agreement with the countries that invited him, to a later date to be established in the future.

ARMY ON CANCELLATION OF GENERAL'S VISIT TO U.S.

PY280219 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] The Army has explained that the invitation by the chief of staff of the U.S. Army to Lieutenant General Santiago Sinclair, deputy chief of the Chilean Army, was not rejected. The official Army communique says: In relation to press reports referring to the cancellation of a trip to the United States by the deputy chief of the Chilean Army, the Army Public Relations Department reports the following:

Gen Santiago Sinclair, deputy chief of the Chilean Army, has received an invitation from the chief of staff of the U.S. Army, General John A. Wickham, to visit U.S. military institutions this year as the guest of the U.S. Army. The invitation was made through U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes. [Words indistinct] Gen Sinclair, in a note addressed to the U.S. ambassador, said: It was impossible to accept the invitation because I was recently appointed Army deputy commander, and I thus have a very busy schedule of activities.

The communique adds that the invitation was officially extended in a letter from Gen Wickham and that the letter was answered explaining the reasons for declining the invitation, and expressing appreciation for being invited.

The official Army communique says in conclusion that the invitation was not rejected, that the invitation could have been accepted but was declined for the reasons already explained.

RADICAL PARTY DENIES MARXIST-LENINIST LEANINGS

PY291457 LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 7

[Text] The Radical Party [PR], through its Secretary General Ricardo Navarrete, has denied allegation that the PR is following Marxist-Leninist leanings and that this is the reason behind the Radical Union [UR] rejection of reunification. In this regard, Navarrete said that "the fact that we are holding talks with Marxist forces can in no way link us to that line of political, ideological thinking. Actually, we could perfectly well state that the UR -- who has been holding talks with the government -- shares the totalitarian doctrine that has caused so much damage to the country."

SOCIALIST PARTY DEFINES POSITION ON AD, MDP

PY281350 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] The Socialist Party [PS], one of the parties that makes up the Democratic Alliance [AD], has released a declaration with the main resolutions of the PS Central Committee meeting.

In the resolution the PS defines its position regarding the AD, the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP], and the bloc of socialist parties. The resolution also defines the PS position regarding the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy and the proposals of the Federation of Professional Associations.

Hernan Vodanovic, member of the PS Political Commission, announced the main points of the resolution. The first point refers to the PS policies on alliances.

[Begin recording] It praises the formation of the Political Committee for Social Mobilization and the characteristics agreed upon by the various political forces that make up the committee. This step taken by the opposition is fully appreciated by the PS because it is a basic element for progress in the antidictatorial struggle and because it rejects the useless attitude of excluding other organizations. [end recording]

The PS supports the call to create a National Civic Assembly made by the Federation of Professional Associations and defines its position regarding the National Accord and the AD.

[Begin recording] All the necessary efforts must be made to make the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy an effective tool for the democratization of the country and to insure its operation. To do this the PS will propose to the other parties that make up the AD ideas and actions toward that objective. With this purpose in mind and with the desire to go ahead in the development of the struggle for freedom and the end of the dictatorship, the PS decided to continue to take the necessary steps to help overcome the problems that have obstructed the operation of the AD. [end recording]

In reference to the PS policies regarding the bloc of socialist parties and the MDP, the PS resolution proposes to continue working to achieve a broadest social and political agreement without exclusions.

NEW ORGANIZATION CREATED AS 'SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE'

PY291324 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2352 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- "Socialist Front" president Juan Carlos Moraga today stated that the newly-created "Organization for Liberation and Democracy" (OLD), is "a socialist alternative" to Marxism and social democracy.

In Moraga's opinion, the new movement "emerges as a socialist alternative to the 'Democratic Alliance,' which proposes the reform of capitalism, and to Marxism, which by ideological definition, seeks to establish a proletariat dictatorship in Chile, following the Soviet model."

Moraga stated that the OLD "champions democracy and is clearly opposed to any type of dictatorship, especially the Chilean authoritarian regime."

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY BY 60 DAYS

PY300029 Paris AFP in Spanish 2345 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Today the Peruvian Government extended the state of emergency and curfew in the provinces of Lima and Callao for another 60 days, an official source has revealed.

In a speech delivered on 7 February, President Alan Garcia announced the implementation of measures to cope with terrorist actions over the last several days, including the setting of fires in downtown Lima.

MINEWORKERS STRIKE CONTINUES WORSENING

PY291841 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1548 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (EFE) -- The strike being held by workers from six mining districts in the central mountains area continues despite negotiation efforts being conducted by the government and the murder of a mineworker and two trade union leaders.

The mining districts observing the strike are Cerro de Pasco, La Oroya, Morococha, Casapalca, Yaucicocha, and Cobriza, in Junin and Pasco Departments. These districts belong to the state-owned enterprise Centrominperu [Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise].

The stoppage, now over a month old, continues despite the fact that the government has granted a salary increase of $1.90 per day, stating that it could not grant further increases because of its anti-inflationary policy and Centrominperu's economic situation.

Even though the negotiations held over the past 2 days between the mineworkers trade union leaders and Centrominperu have not been successful, the mineworkers are not giving up hope for a more substantial salary increase.

Civil Guard Lieutenant Colonel Nelson Flores has reported that the situation has become more serious after two powerful bombs were detonated this morning in the town of San Juan, near Cerro de Pasco.

Centrominperu's metalworkers and mineworkers, who total some 17,000 workers, yesterday decided to reject their representatives and demanded that the latter explain their "deceitful" attitude concerning the decisions made on the economic claims.

Police have arrested a suspect in the murder of mineworker union leader Abel Estrella, who was killed on 27 March. Earlier, a worker, identified as Julio Huaranga, was stabbed to death. In addition, mineworkers union leader Tomas Miranda, who was one of signatories to the arrangement that granted an increase of $1.90 daily, was shot to death on 19 March on his way to a meeting.

Meanwhile, 11 Centrominperu workers and Deputy David de la Sota today continued their 7-day hunger strike which they are holding at the Congress building in Lima to press the government on the petitions made by the mineworkers of the central Peruvian mountainous area.

NICARAGUAN, USSR ENVOYS ON U.S. AID TO CONTRAS

PA282117 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 22 Mar 86 p 14

[By Jorge Ochoa]

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan Ambassador Edmundo Jarquin Calderon and Soviet Ambassador Rostislav Sergeyev yesterday expressed their enthusiasm over the U.S. Congress' rejection of the request to finance the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. Interviewed at the end of the ceremony to render posthumous tribute to former Foreign Secretary Antonio Carrillo Fores, the Nicaraguan diplomat nevertheless said that he was discouraged that the debate among the U.S. legislators was limited only "to the means and not the objectives of the policy."

Meanwhile, Rostislav Sergeyev said that the Soviet Union will follow the development of the events and he reiterated that his country's position is that of clear respect for Central America: "Our position is that of helping the activities of the Contadora Group to eliminate the threat of war in the region."

Jarquin said that whether or not the $100 million or any other sum is approved to help the contras, this is just part of the problem, because the fundamental aspect is that the U.S. Congress does not have any right to be discussing the fate of an independent and sovereign country. The mere fact that there is a discussion, he said, involves a case of the threat of the use of force, which is categorically prohibited by international law. This, he said, is a violation of international law. He insisted that the use of a threat is prohibited. Neither of the results compromises us, but the threat continues.

The Soviet ambassador was more terse in his comments, and he said that it is a special topic that is a domestic issue of the U.S. people and their government. Nevertheless, he added, we have noticed that there is a disagreement between the Reagan administration and the U.S. people. The aggressive position of the government with regard to the Central American problems is not favorably viewed by all its fellow citizens. Even so, we know that the U.S. Government continues its intense policy of oppression against Nicaragua. We will see what the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress will do in the next few weeks. We know, he added, what the roots of this conflict are. They are the same ones as those of the island of Haiti, Cuba until 1959, and Nicaragua until 1979. They are well-known roots: the deep economic and social underdevelopment of those peoples and the lack of education in Central America.

There are two problems: political security and economic security of those states. Obviously in this regard, the Central American countries need the help of several countries of the world. We believe that the Soviet proposal voiced in the 27th CPSU Congress about calling a world congress on the problems of economic security is very important. We support the pacification actions in the area and that is why we are concerned about the negative and aggressive U.S. intentions against Nicaragua.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS TO MEET 4 APRIL

PA302014 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] The vice presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica will meet at a San Jose hotel on 4 April at the request of Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge. It was reported that the idea for the meeting responds to the reactivation of trade in the Central American region. Costa Rican Vice President Armando Arauz Aguilar will head the event.

Vice President-elect Jorge Manuel Dengo has been invited to this meeting. The vice president of Nicaragua will be absent, because it is difficult to have a harmonious meeting with the neighbors to the north.

The meeting of Central American vice presidents conceals aggressive intentions against Nicaragua, President Daniel Ortega has said. Monge immediately rejected this statement, saying that this meeting is not aimed at discussing political matters, because that topic is reserved for the Esquipulas meeting which will soon be held in Guatemala. Monge stressed that that meeting will be used by Central American Presidents to discuss the pacification of the region.

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ ON CAMPOS' BORDER ZONE STATEMENT

PA300255 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 4A

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said that the statement made yesterday by Deputy Security Minsiter Colonel Johnny Campos Loaiza that the Contadora Group is promoting a demilitarized zone on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua was due to an erroneous interpretation of documents.

The foreign minister admitted however, that the Contadora deputy foreign ministers did present a document at the meeting held on 12 March between representatives of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Gutierrez said: "I read that report, and I did not see any mention of a demilitarized zone. This could possibly by Johnny's interpretation, because the text of the document does not refer to the matter as does the deputy security minister."

According to Col Campos Loaiza, the Contadora Group is promoting the establishment of a demilitarized zone along the border between the two countries. The zone would be under the control of an international force. He said this is unacceptable for our nation. He said that such a situation was set forth in a document not discussed during the 12 March meeting. The plan reportedly calls for a 2-km-wide demilitarized zone in each of the two territories.

Gutierrez said that the statements by Campos Loaiza caught his attention because when he spoke with Contadora deputy ministers at a luncheon, they stated a position close to the one "I established in my speech to open the meeting."

On that occasion Gutierrez said that Costa Rica will not permit demilitarized zones along the border region.

Meanwhile, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias announced in Brasilia that Uruguay is prepared to form part of a future watch commission along the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. He cautioned that the participation of Uruguay will be within the framework of the peace efforts of the Contadora Group.

ARIAS' POSITION ON UPCOMING CONTADORA MEETING

PA301449 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto [title as published] will represent President-elect Oscar Arias at the upcoming meeting of the Contadora Group with the foreign ministers of Central America and the Support Group, which is to be held in Panama on 4 and 5 April.

Arias gave instructions to Madrigal Nieto to participate in the meeting. Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez also said that the future minister will be a member of the Costa Rican delegation.

Madrigal Nieto will thus make his first contact with his future colleagues of Central America and the Contadora Group, as well as with those of the Support Group (Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Uruguay).

The following are the salient points of Arias' position, which Madrigal Nieto will explain at the meeting of the 13 foreign ministers on Contadora Island.

1. The Contadora Group must immediately decide on the signing of the Act for the Pacification and Cooperation of Central America.

2. Nicaragua must decide if it is going to participate in an internal dialogue.

3. The Contadora Group -- which is already 3 years and 3 months old -- must state if it supports the positions of the four democratic Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica).

4. The Contadora Group must "land" [aterrizar] or complete its work with the act and demand that all the countries share equally the responsibilities inherent in the document.

PRESIDENT-ELECT ARIAS ANNOUNCES DEPUTY MINISTERS

PA300229 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 4 A

[Text] President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez yesterday announced the names of the 18 deputy ministers who will assume office on 8 May. The announcement was made during a ceremony at Hotel Coricibi, which was attended by Vice President-elect Victoria Garron de Doryan, the ministers-designate, and the deputies of the National Liberal Party [PLN] bloc, who will assume their duties on 1 May.

The designated deputy ministers are:

Foreign relations: Carlos Rivera Bianchini, who is currently a deputy and head of the PLN bloc.

Presidency: Luis Alberto Cordero Arias, who worked with Arias' team during the election camapaign.

Housing and urban development: Ofelia Taitelbaum Joselewich.

Treasury: Rebeca Grynspan. Ms Grynspan will assume office within 6 months because she had a baby 5 weeks ago. In the meantime, Edgar Gutierrez, the incumbent deputy minister, will continue in this position.

Planning: Sandra Pizk, who worked at Presidential House during the inception of the present administration.

Economy, industry, and commerce: Antonio Burges Teran, who is currently a consultant with the firm Desarrollo Moderno de Empresas.

Energy and mines: Jorge Monge, the incumbent deputy minister, was confirmed in this post.

Foreign trade: Rodrigo Barahona Israel, who is currently a Central Bank director.

Agriculture and livestock: Osvaldo Pandolfo Rimolo, who works in this office.

Health: Victor Julio Brenes.

Public works and transport: Luis Llach Cordero, who is assistant chief of the Electrical Planning Directorate [Direccion de Planificacion Electrica] of the Costa Rican Electricity Institute.

Culture, youth, and sports: Actress Adriana Mimi Prado.

Education: Guillermo Araya.

Public Security: Colonel Rogelio Castro Pinto.

Government: Alvaro Ramos Rechnitz.

Justice: Eugenia Zamora, who, at age 29, will be the youngest deputy minister.

Science and technology: Eduardo Doryan.

Labor and social security: Luis Fernando Vargas.

Before making the announcements, Arias said that there are many men and women who have the qualifications and talent to hold these and other posts but that there was no room for all.

He asserted that all the appointees have in common the will to serve Costa Rica. He noted that all of them are "very competent professionals who represent a new generation and whose median age is 35 years."

EDITORIAL VIEWS U.S. HOUSE VOTE ON CONTRA AID

PA292234 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Mar 86 p 14 A

[Editorial: "A Bad Step"]

[Excerpts] In rejecting President Ronald Reagan's request for $100 million in military and humanitarian aid for the anti-Sandinist rebels this past Thursday, the U.S. House of Representatives took a bad step. Contrary to what many people opposed to the assistance had said, the voting denying such an assistance by 12 votes will serve to encourage the military option in the Nicaraguan conflict and will make democratic evolution in that country more costly.

It is a shame that because of the dynamics of U.S. domestic policy, the lobbying of the Sandinists in the Capitol, and the lack of vision that many congressmen have on international matters, the U.S. representatives have been unable to realize what the true situation is.

But there is still time for the House of Representatives to rectify its position. This depends to a great extent on what the Central Americans do. If the Sandinists do not respond to the simultaneous negotiations proposal made by President Duarte, then Duarte as well as the other chiefs of state of the area who have supported him should promptly denounce the lack of interest of the commanders and ask the U.S. Congress to change its attitude and its voting. Otherwise, the consequences will be paid for not only by the Nicaraguans under the dictatorship or in exile but also by all the other Central American people, who will be unable to maintain a stable democracy so long as there is a totalitarian and expansionist military power in their midst.

EL SALVADOR

VENCEREMOS CRITICIZES HONDURAN AID ACCEPTANCE

PA300347 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] At first the Honduran Government and Army denied the alleged Sandinist incursion into Honduran territory, but, as we had foreseen, the offer of $20 million to Azcona and the Honduran Army chief was enough for them to accept the lie fabricated at Rambo Reagan's desk.

In his desperation to keep the disbanded Somozist forces going for a few more months, Rambo Reagan has demonstrated a most barefaced lack of morals in his race to get the famous $100 million. Azcona and the military chiefs will fatten their bank accounts with the $20 million that Rambo Reagan is delivering to them. However, they have clumsily admitted before the world what they had been steadfastly denying -- that the Somozist mercenary forces have bases and receive supplies in Honduras.

However, while Azcona and the unworthy military sell out Honduras' sovereignty, the conscience of the Hondruan people is maturing and a national feeling of a patriotism is growing against the AIDS-carrying Yankees and the Somozists who constantly commit crimes against the Honduran people. As we had reported, a few days ago a priest became a new victim of the Somozist bands [word indistinct] by Rambo Reagan.

Honduras is awakening. Our peoples have not been born to kneel or to be humbled.

HONDURAS

AZCONA MEETS WITH REGALADO ON BORDER SITUATION

PA292304 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2030 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Today President Jose Azcona Hoyo met in his vacation home with General Humberto Regalado, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, it was learned in this capital. The reason for the meeting was not given officially, but it is likely that it is due to the tense situation prevailing on the border with Nicaragua.

The border region has been the scene of fierce fighting for several days which, according to Tegucigalpa, is taking place between Sandinist and Honduran troops, and according to Managua it is between Nicaraguan troops and contras.

A Honduran military spokesman announced today that since last Thursday the EPS has sustained 200 dead, although he did not report the number of Honduran casualties and, on the contrary, he claimed that they have found the bodies of 40 contras in the region.

Honduras officially denies the existence of anti-Sandinist camps, despite the fact that they have been visited by reporters on various occasions.

The meeting between Azcona and Gen Regalado took place in the city of Puerto Cortes, 300 km north of Tegucigalpa, which is where Azcona Hoyo and his family spend Easter week vacations.

Azcona Hoyo, it was learned today, will arrive in this capital tomorrow and on Monday he might hold a press conference to explain the situation with Nicaragua.

200 SANDINISTS KILLED, 19 CAPTURED IN CLASHES

PA291627 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1603 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Approximately 200 Sandinist soldiers have been killed and 19 have been captured in Honduran territory following intense battles with Honduran Armed Forces troops in Honduras' eastern region on the border with Nicaragua. This was reported to ACAN-EFE today by a high-ranking Honduran Army officer who requested that he remain unidentified.

He added that 40 Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries who are fighting against the Managua government could also have died in the clashes. Since Thursday afternoon the Sandinist units have apparently begun to return to their country, but individually there are some members in Honduran territory who, the source added, "are being tracked by our soldiers."

According to the Honduran Armed Forces, Sandinist troops entered Honduran territory in pursuit of Nicaraguan contras on 17 March.

EPS CASUALTIES 'MIGHT BE OVER 700 DEAD'

PA291936 Paris AFP in Spanish 1805 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (AFP) -- A Holy Week of heavy armed clashes between the EPS and insurgent and Honduran forces along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border has left a toll of hundreds of dead, according to military sources stationed in the conflict area.

According to these reports, about 700 Sandinists were killed when most of them fell into a trap in Honduran territory.

According to U.S. officers and residents of the area, the clashes began on Saturday, 22 March, but Colonel [Danilo] Carbajal [chief of the Honduran troops transferred to Capire] said that by 19 March [date as received], Sandinist soldiers had already machine-gunned a military helicopter in Honduran territory, which managed to land. The crew was not injured.

The officer stated that the Honduran Army "has not suffered any casualties," although a peasant from the area of Espanol Grande, north of Capire, said that "there are dead on all sides."

According to Col Carbajal, the purpose of those incursions was to bring subversive elements into Honduras, because this time "they followed the same route" of Dr Jose Reyes, who in August 1984 entered Olancho with a column of about 200 guerrillas who were wiped out 1 month later.

Col Carbajal said that "it is not possible for the time being to determine the EPS casualties," but one officer stationed at Capire told AFP on Thursday that "there might be over 700 dead."

Likewise, a military source at Cifuentes, in the border area of El Paraiso, said that approximately 700 Sandinists were wiped out "probably when they fell into a trap" after entering Honduran territory and being surrounded by an insurgent column coming from Nicaragua, in the area near Espanol Grande, Arenales, about 6 km from the border.

Other sources said that the Honduran troops also blocked their passage, but Col Carbajal said that was "a false alarm."

Another military source in Tegucigalpa told AFP yesterday that "over 200 Sandinist soldiers were killed during 4 attacks launched last Sunday," against the Military Training Center (CIM) of the contras, about 2 km from the town of Llamales, 15 km inside Honduran territory. During the attacks, he added, "about 40" contras were killed.

The source explained that the 200 EPS troops killed "refers only to the actions taking place in Llamales and does not include the casualties in other clashes." He said, however, that 150 Sandinists were wounded in all the clashes.

He said that 2 other groups of 400 Sandinists each entered on Sunday the Las Vegas area, in the same area of Espanol Grande, staying there 2 days and clashing with the rebels, although the number of casaulties was not given.

The source refuted the statements made by President Daniel Ortega to the effect that the EPS had destroyed the "CIM," in Nicaraguan territory, "because the center operates in Honduras, and all of the attacks failed," he pointed out.

To date 16 Sandinist troops have been taken prisoner, according to the sources; 2 of those men were presented to journalists in Tegucigalpa. They said they had been captured inside Honduran territory.

REBEL GROUPS REPORTEDLY SIGHTED IN NORTHERN REGION

PA291216 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1707 GMT 28 Mar 86

[By German Reyes]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- This weekend special Honduran Army troops are looking for a group of armed men who have reportedly been sighted by peasants near the community of Esparta. The search is being conducted by troops of the 4th Infantry Battalion headquartered in the port city of La Ceiba, in northern Honduras, with help from light planes of the Honduran Air Force.

According to reports from the area, there are groups of armed men in some remote and mountainous areas. Some of the local residents are fearful and claim they are "subversive elements."

An officer of the 4th Infantry Battalion, who asked to remain anonymous, said that soldiers from his battalion are combing all of the mountain area and do not rule out the possibility that "guerrilla cells" have gone into the jungle. The number of persons comprising the armed groups is unknown. The soldiers have searched homes in several towns but have not captured any subversive thus far.

The reports have been made following the charge raised a few days ago in Washington and Tegucigalpa that 1,500 Sandinist soldiers crossed the border on 17 March and entered Honduran territory.

In Yoro Department, bordering on Atlantida Department, the Honduran and U.S. Armies are holding military maneuvers and some minor training exercises. The Honduran Army has a large number of Specialized Jungle and Night Operation Troops (TESON) as well as mountain soldiers who are used in some cases to track down suspected rebels.

Since 1982 Honduran soldiers have been receiving training in joint maneuvers with U.S. forces. Currently major maneuvers and small training exercises are being held across the country together with approximately 4,500 U.S. soldiers. The maneuvers currently under way are: "Terencio Sierra-86," in Yoro Department; "Tosta-86" in the southern, central, and eastern regions; and the "Cabanas-86" maneuvers in the Mosquitia area, in eastern Honduras, and at the border with Nicaragua.

A number of guerrilla cells that appeared 2 years ago in Olancho Department were eliminated by Honduran troops. Similar operations have been carried out in southern Honduras and other regions.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA DISCUSSES CONTRAS, U.S. CONGRESSIONAL VOTES

PA281945 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1659 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Press conference by President Daniel Ortega and Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto with unidentified reporters in Managua; broadcast in progress -- live]

[Text] [Ortega] ... we, Nicaragua, had not wanted to discuss the debate itself in both the lower and higher chambers. Neither had we wanted to refer to the fact that the vote in the lower chamber was against the U.S. President's proposal and that now the vote in the higher chamber is favorable to the U.S. President's proposal (?or) to the different opinions voiced in the U.S. Congress. We have not referred to this, nor will we do so today because we insist that what is at stake here is the U.S. foreign policy. The United States is either going to respect the established legal order in the world or impose its own law, which is the law of the jungle, the law of force, the law of the strongest. That is what is really at issue in the United States when the best way to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution is debated. Some concerns are voiced regarding the direct involvement of U.S. troops in combat in Nicaragua because U.S. youths will die, but not because Nicaraguan youths are also going to die as they are doing right now, thanks to the U.S. Government terrorist policy.

It is truly significant that this week, when our Christian people celebrate Holy Week, the week when Jesus Christ was crucified, the U.S. Senate approved on the night of Maundy Thursday, one day before the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday, the crucifixion of Nicaragua.

We are not just looking at the financing of the mercenary forces. We do not believe that is the most serious thing, whether they approve $100 million or $500 million. We do not think that is the most serious thing. In reality, the most serious thing is that we are already facing what is the Vietnamization of the struggle in Central America. In other words, the United States, President Reagan, have been taking concrete steps that directly involve U.S. forces, U.S. troops in support of the mercenary forces. The most serious thing that has taken place in these last few days has been the use of U.S. helicopters that are piloted by U.S. pilots of the U.S. Air Force who are in Honduran territory. These helicopters have been used to transport the Honduran Army to the border with Nicaragua, a border that is extremely conflictive and tense because the mercenary bands are in Honduran territory and from there they launch their attacks, their incursions, and their invasions against our country.

We see how the U.S. Government involves its military forces and prominent military chiefs such as Mr Galvin, chief of the Southern Command, who has been there on the site, directing these operations when there has been no problem between Honduras and Nicaragua. There has been no combat between Honduras and Nicaragua. Instead, the battles have been between our Army, defending Nicaragua's sovereignty and integrity, and the mercenary forces that have their camps in Honduras and who try to enter our territory.

Because we have been hitting the mercenary forces hard in the last few days, because their main bases, including the main training center of the mercenary forces, have been destroyed, the North Americans have desperately rushed to pressure the Honduran Government to invent a story of Nicaraguan aggression against Honduras, to see how they can involve Honduras in a confrontation with Nicaragua, and since this has not been possible, they have begun to transport Honduran troops to the border region for the purpose of deploying a U.S. force which will defend the mercenary forces. The U.S. helicopters with U.S. soldiers and officers are there transporting the Honduran forces. With this they are trying to prevent the annihilation of the mercenary forces by our troops. At the same time they are trying to give the international image that Nicaragua is invading Honduras, that Nicaragua is attacking Honduras. We believe that is the most serious event in recent days. It is the involvement of U.S. troops in Honduras. It is the involvement of U.S. war materiel, such as the U.S. helicopters in Honduras, in operations to support the mercenary forces that have their bases and camps in Honduras. Unquestionably, to the extent that the U.S. Army with its helicopters, its military advisers -- that is another measure that President Reagan has announced; he is going to involve military advisers on the site -- to the extent that it involves U.S. militarymen in support of the mercenary forces, the U.S. officers, the U.S. military advisers, and the U.S. helicopters will be running the same risks as the mercenary forces. Therefore, we should not be surprised if tomorrow a U.S. helicopter were to be downed by our combatants and if U.S. officers and U.S. military advisers were to be killed.

The responsibility will fall on them because they are getting involved in an aggressive and disrespectful manner that violates international law, because they are getting increasingly more directly involved in the conflict in support of the mercenary forces. The mercenary forces are simply being defeated by our combatants. The mercenary forces are being hit hard by our combatants.

To the extent that the mercenary forces are being defeated, the United States is making great efforts to involve Honduras in a confrontation with Nicaragua, and since Honduras is not doing so, then it is directly getting involved with its resources. We think this is the most serious thing. Of course, there is the Senate approval. It indicates to us that the two chambers are going to approve some type of aid for the mercenary forces. That would be logical. However, the Senate did not reject Reagan's proposal to effectively support Latin America's call to respect the peace efforts of Contadora and the Lima Groups so that the conflict will be resolved through peaceful means. A dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua was called for. The U.S. Senate was not receptive to this. The vote margin was very close: 50 is the average. [sentence as heard] President Reagan's proposal obtained three votes over that. President Reagan's proposal won by three votes. However, it won. What does this mean? That the trend in the U.S. Congress continues to be to strengthen the U.S. Government's terrorist policy in Central America. Because the mercenary forces have no future -- even if U.S. advisers arrive there; even if U.S. air means are used to attempt to protect these mercenary forces -- the Congress is committing itself to a policy of intervention in Nicaragua. That is why we said that the latest steps that were taken are following the trend that was followed during the Vietnam conflict. That is very grave.

We emphatically reject President Reagan's policy and the action taken by the U.S. Senate, which has rubberstamped this policy. Once again we urge the U.S. Congress to act wisely. We urge the President of the United States to act wisely so that we may seek a peaceful solution to the conflict. We continue to be willing to enter into talks with the United States. We are willing to seek a framework for understanding, aware of the concerns the United States has concerning its security in the area and of Nicaragua's own concerns regarding its security in the area. We are not willing to discuss our domestic situation with the United States or anyone else. This is up to Nicaragua to decide. The Nicaraguan people decide the kind of political, social, and economic system Nicaragua has. They are already doing that in the context of the drafting of the constitution. We are not willing to enter into a dialogue with the instruments of aggression used by the U.S. Government; with those it likes to characterize as the leaders of the counterrevolution. We are not willing to speak with these people. We will never enter into talks with these people. There is an amnesty here. These people can take shelter under it. As long as they refuse to do that there will be no possibility for dialogue. We will never enter into talks with them. Our answer will be given in the field that I have said: the military field. As we have said, we are willing to enter into talks with the chief of the counterrevolutionary forces, who has described himself as a contra: the President of the United States. We are willing to hold a dialogue with him.

Today we sent a letter -- it is signed by the foreign minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto -- to the Contadora Group and the Lima Group. In it we stress the serious turn the situation has taken, due to the United States' involvement to defend the mercenary forces in and from Honduran territory; due to President Reagan's decision to involve military advisers to support the mercenary forces; and due to the U.S. Senate's vote, which confirms that trend toward intervention against Nicaragua. We have urged the Contadora and Lima Groups to address these issues as soon as possible. We believe they are the most sensitive issues in the escalation that is taking place despite Nicaragua's desire for peace; despite the desire for peace shared by the governments who are members of the Contadora and Lima Groups. This escalation must be dealt with. It must be stopped. In the proposal we made 2 or 3 days ago we insisted on the need to create an oversight and control force in the border territory between Honduras and Nicaragua. We made this proposal 2 or 3 days ago to the Contadora and Lima Groups in view of the tensing of the situation at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. We hope this is also one the main issues that will be discussed during the meeting that will held within the next several days in Panama with the Contadora Group and representatives of the Central American Governments.

We are therefore faced with military aggression directed by the President of the United States. We are also facing a policy of commitment with President Reagan's policy on the part of the U.S. Congress, which tends to yield to President Reagan's policy, to accept it. We are therefore faced with a violation of international law by the United States. As things stand, Nicaragua will continue to defend its sovereignty and self-determination. If U.S. military advisers or helicopters -- or whatever -- become involved in supporting the mercenary forces, they will be running the same risks the mercenary forces that invade our country and stage incursions in Nicaragua are facing, because there is the willingness and determination to fight the mercenary forces and those who are directly supporting those terrorist actions against Nicaragua.

That is what we wanted to say after having learned during these past few days about the grave tensions that have arisen at the border, where the mercenary forces have again attempted to stage incursions to impress the U.S. Congress and Senate [as heard], and where they have sustained severe blows from our forces.

We also wanted to discuss the vote in the U.S. Senate. I am open to your questions.

[Question] [Words indistinct] are you aware of this? When will you meet with him?

[Ortega] We have no report that Mr Habib is coming to Nicaragua. We have no report on that.

[Question] Mr President, you have said you will not enter into talks with the counterrevolution. President Reagan has established that as the condition to put an end to his aggression. He has also said he does not want to speak with you because he is not the leader of the contras. Tension has increased. War is escalating. Are you willing to come to terms with any kind of military escalation without yielding any ground at all?

[Ortega] Our position is just, logical, and reasonable. Who can doubt that the U.S. Government is the leader of the counterrevolution? Who can doubt that the U.S. President is the leader of the counterrevolution? Every day he makes speeches asking for support for his terrorist policy against Nicaragua. He is requesting support for the mercenary forces he has sent to fight against the Nicaraguan people. Our proposal is logical. That is why we maintain that our willingness to enter into talks with President Reagan implies getting to the root of the problem. The counterrevolution exists to the extent that President Reagan decides that it should exist, to the extent that President Reagan establishes policy against Nicaragua.

Therefore, the dialogue must be with President Reagan, who is obsessed with Nicaragua. We have to see how we can hold a dialogue with him so that the situation can be overcome. Meanwhile, we will be involved in that confrontation with him obsessed, hounding, and attacking the Nicaraguan people and the Nicaraguan people defending themselves. We will have no other choice but to defend ourselves. We are ready to continue to defend ourselves from the U.S. aggression, from President Reagan's policy.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from the LIBERATION newspaper of Paris. Mr President, yesterday's Defense Ministry communique mentioned the destruction of the main contra training center. Can you tell us where that center is located? How many troops were involved, and when did this take place?

[Ortega] Well, we have involved all the troops that we believed it was necessary to involve. The confrontations have taken place in the Honduran-Nicaraguan border territory. That training center in that territory was destroyed.

[Question] Exactly where was that center located?

[Ortega] In the Honduran-Nicaraguan border territory.

[Question] Excuse me, but you just said that the counterrevolution has had its bases inside Honduras, and for at least 2 years the Sandinist government has insisted that there are no counterrevolutionary training centers inside Nicaragua. Therefore, aren't you admitting that you entered Honduran territory to destroy that camp?

[Ortega] Well, the only thing that we know is that a large portion of Honduran territory has been occupied by the mercenary forces. Honduras has been gradually losing its sovereignty over portions of its territory as the mercenary forces have slowly taken over in response to the U.S. Government's decision. The mercenary forces launch attacks from there against Nicaragua and all of that has become a war zone. The border territory becomes a war zone thanks to the U.S. policy that is stealing territory from Honduras and handing it to the mercenary forces.

Precisely yesterday, when a propaganda operation was set up with U.S. helicopters and U.S. officers showing their weapons, etc., and when they left with a big group of reporters to fly over the zone, it was shown that the counterrevolutionary camps are there in Honduras. The reporters saw these camps from the helicopters. They saw the counterrevolutionary camps. They did not see Sandinist troops in Honduran territory. What they saw were the counterrevolutionary camps in Honduran territory.

[Question] Mr President, I think there is confusion about the battles. The Reagan administration has presented the events as perhaps a defeat for the Sandinist forces that waged that battle. Last night's communique presented the events in a different way. Can you tell us the results of the battle? Second, I imagine your intelligence must have had knowledge about the location of those bases for some time. Why did you decide that this was the opportune moment to launch this attack?

[Ortega] First, we insist that there has not been confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua. In other words, Nicaragua has not attacked Honduras. Proof of this is that on Sunday, precisely the day when the United States began the campaign saying that Nicaragua had invaded Honduras, I spoke on the telephone with Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo. I spoke with him about the next Central American meeting, and we also discussed the situation on the border. There was nothing special or significant to mention. In other words, there has not been an act of aggression by Nicaragua against Honduras.

Now then, this is very tense territory. We were explaining that this territory has been occupied by the United States with the mercenary forces. It is in Honduras on the border with Nicaragua. From there, the mercenary forces try to enter, to carry out incursions into our territory. We have done nothing but carry out defensive operations in that border territory. We have carried out defensive operations to defend ourselves from those who attack us. In those defensive operations, we have destroyed and occupied the main training center of the mercenary forces. Other camps were also destroyed. When Mr Cruz, Mr Robelo, or Mr Bermudez [counterrevolutionary leaders] appear photographed in those camps they said that these camps were located in Nicaraguan territory. When Mr Cruz, Mr Robelo, and Mr Calero put on their uniforms

They say that the camps are in Nicaraguan territory. Well, those camps were destroyed and occupied by our troops. Some of the transportation means they had there, including a helicopter, were also destroyed.

The number of casualties suffered by the mercenary forces is over 600 men, including dead and wounded. The number of casualties that we suffered during those operations was 153. Of these, 40 heroic combatants of our Army were killed in combat. The rest were wounded. Five comrades are missing; two of them have shown up in the hands of the Honduran military authorities who presented them to the national and foreign press in that country.

Therefore, we are simply defending ourselves; we are carrying out operations in defense of our country as we have been doing for a long time. As long as there has been counterrevolution, we have been defending our country and carrying out military operations to defend our country. We will defend our country in the border territory so that the mercenary forces will not advance a single inch into our territory.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] No, I was explaining that it is not that we chose a specific moment, but that we permanently maintain actions in defense of our country.

[Question -- in Portuguese] Carlos (?Cardoze), Mozambique News Agency. Following your victory, the Sandinist government did not execute the Somozist guards. Is the president sorry he did not execute them?

[Ortega] No, we are not sorry we did not execute the Somozist gurads, because, after all, Reagan would have hired other mercenaries to attack our country. Besides, it is a policy of principle, and we have defended that; we are not sorry we did not do it. That is why we keep the doors open to amnesty, so they can resort to amnesty, if they -- if these Nicaraguans who due to their backwardness, deformation, and many other reasons some of them have been kidnapped -- have been forced into counterrevolutionary armed action.

[Question -- in English] Mr President, Dennis Murphy, NBC news. When the mapmakers of the world define political boundaries, they draw lines. They do not talk about war zones, or (?lost) sovereignty. The line that the mapmakers draw, did Nicaraguan soldiers cross that or not?

[Unidentified translator] He says that when the mapmakers of the world draw their maps, they do not draw war zones, but only draw boundaries dividing the two countries. Thus, the question is if Nicaragua, the EPS forces, crossed the geographic boundary between Nicaragua and Honduras.

[Ortega] All I can say is that the mercenary forces who are on Honduran territory -- financed by the U.S. Government, advised by the U.S. Government -- are the ones who are crossing from Honduran territory into our territory to murder our people, destroy the people's property such as schools, health centers; they murder children, women. Our forces are only defending themselves at the border area and will continue defending themselves in the border area from those incursions.

The important thing is that we are not violating any principle. The one who is violating the principle of respect for territory, the sovereignty of a nation is the United States by following a policy that establishes mercenaries in Honduran territory in order for them to invade Nicaragua and violate the Nicaraguan border.

That policy is violating Nicaragua's right to its self-determination; its independence, its borders, its territorial rights are at stake.

[Question] Comander Ortega, Oscar Alvarez, of Radio Sandino. Will there be an effort on the part of Nicaragua to convoke the UN Security Council in the face of the seriousness of the situation?

[Ortega] First of all, we are convoking a meeting of the Contadora and Lima Groups. We are calling upon Latin America to take over [asuma] this serious situation, to forestall this warmongering escalation of the U.S. Government, and so we will advance the proposal made by Nicaragua that a verification and control commission be established in the Honduran-Nicaraguan border area. This verification and control commission should be made up of the Contadora Group and the Lima Group countries.

[Question] President Ortega, do you have any plans to continue with this type of operation along the so-called war zone in the border area?

[Ortega] So long as there is an aggressive force trying to invade our territory, we will continue defending our territory and will defend it from that border line.

[Question] Joseph Contreras, NEWSWEEK magazine. Mr President, in order to better locate the area affected in recent days: When the Defense Ministry communique speaks of the destruction of the main training camp, is it referring to the camp near the towns of Yamales and Capire, that some of my colleagues have visited?

[Ortega] We are specifically referring to operations carried out on the border areas, where we have seriously damaged the main bases of the mercenary forces.

[Contreras] Then these are not the camps near these two towns?

[Ortega] What we know is that, and I repeat: When Mr Cruz, or Mr Robelo, or this Mr Calero, or Bermudez appeared in some camps, they insist these camps are in Nicaraguan territory. We also know that the Honduran Government denies, has denied that there are any such camps in Honduras. Then if these camps do not exist in Honduras, this means the clashes are taking place in Nicaragua.

[Question] Roberto Agudo, of Cuban television. Comrade President, undoubtedly the Central American situation cannot be isolated from the rest of the world. You can give your opinion, but there are some opinions to the effect that there is a coincidence of this situation that the United States is provoking right now against Nicaragua with what happened in Libya, that is, the movements and aggressions against the Libyan people, precisely to seek a solution that, let us say, will favor the Senate vote and prepare U.S. public opinion for more future, more direct aggressions of the United States against Nicaragua.

[Ortega] Yes, I insist in pointing out that President Reagan's policy is reflected here in Central America; it is reflected in Nicaragua, and it also is reflected against the sovereignty of the Libyan people. It is a policy to be imposed by force, ignoring international law, ignoring the respect there should be among nations. That is the most serious part. We are confronted with a policy that jeopardizes the security of the world itself.

When U.S. military forces carry out these operations in the Gulf of Sidra, and the situation there is made tense because the Libyan people feel they are being attacked, and simultaneously the U.S. President launches into his campaign against Nicaragua and launches into this military escalation against Nicaragua by moving forces, by helping the mercenary forces, by using U.S. military means and forces to help the mercenary forces, then we are confronted with a policy that jeopardizes the peoples' security in any part of the world, in any region of the world. It not only jeopardizes the security of the Libyan people, of the Nicaraguan people, but it also jeopardizes regional security. The Nicaraguan problem is a problem that goes beyond the Nicaraguan people; it is a problem that jeopardizes the regional security, it jeopardizes Latin America. The U.S. aggression against Libya is also a policy that not only jeopardizes the security of Libya, but it also jeopardizes the security of all the countries in that area, including the allies of the United States themselves. Thus, we think that we must forestall that policy. International opinion must forestall it; the UN Security Council must forestall it; and we are forestalling it by calling upon the Latin American countries, the Contadora Group and the Lima Group, in the first place.

[Question] Mr President; Ronnie Lopez of CBS. Sir, several days ago Commander Joaquin Cuadra held a press conference to discuss the situation. His vocabulary was different from that you are using now. He spoke about combat strictly inside Nicaragua. There was no mention of war zone or border zones. What is the reason for the change in terms? Second: Was there an attempt by the Sandinist Army -- as part of its military strategy -- to deal a sharp blow to counterrevolution to further lower its morale before any further aid reached it?

[Ortega] There is no contradiction between the statement by Commander Cuadra and the one I am making now. Keep in mind we have held constant meetings over the past several days with Defense Minister Humberto Ortega and with Commander Cuadra -- before and after he held that press conference. We followed his press conference and did not hear any contradiction with what we are saying now.

I repeat: Nicaragua has not attacked Honduras. Nicaragua is defending itself from attacks launched from Honduras by the mercenary forces that the United States has entrenched there. That is what Nicaragua is doing: defending itself. That is a legitimate right Nicaragua will continue to use. The most intense clashes are on the border. That is only natural, because the counterrevolution, under the CIA and the Pentagon's direction, has attempted to stage spectacular blows these days while the U.S. Congress was holding its deliberations.

They concentrated forces in Honduras and thrust them against our country. That means that the clashes are stronger and more intense on the border.

[Question] Lucia Newman of CNN. I would like to go back to something you said before, in the sense that if U.S. troops, helicopters, and pilots become involved to help the counterrevolutionaries they will also die because you will defend yourselves. Does that imply that if a U.S. helicopter flown by an American crew flies near the border on the Honduran side of the border, it will be downed?

[Ortega] If it crosses into our territory and attacks us it will be downed.

[Newman] Even if it is on the Honduran side of the border?

[Ortega] Not while they are on the Honduran side. However, imagine the risk a U.S. helicopter takes when it flies over an area of conflict, with mercenary forces on the Honduran side and Nicaraguan forces on the Nicaraguan side of the border.

[Newman] That means they run the risks....

[Ortega, interrupting] They run the risk that the contras themselves will down them.

[Question] Mr President, I believe you have enunciated a new concept or opinion on the border here. You said Honduras has gradually lost its sovereignty over occupied territory. When did you determine they lost sovereignty over that territory? Have you advised the Honduran Government of this concept?

[Ortega] This is not new. We have been saying this for a long time. It is not the first time we have said that Honduras is losing its sovereignty, its control over the territory that is occupied by the mercenary forces. This has also been reported in Honduras. The Honduran people are always protesting the way in which the mercenary forces' presence is affecting the lives of the Honduran people. The mercenary forces' behavior establishes itself in the area: crimes, rapes, and all kinds of brutalities committed by the mercenary forces which are becoming the rule in Honduran villages near the Nicaraguan border. The mercenary forces have virtually taken over those territories.

U.S. policy has imposed a sixth army in Central America. It has entrenched it there, in the Honduran territory bordering Nicaragua. This is affecting Honduran sovereignty. We are not deciding that. This is an objective fact. By imposing this sixth army [changes thought] because it is not a gang of mercenaries, or 50 mercenaries. If there were 50 mercenaries there, there would be no problem. There are thousands of mercenaries who are somewhere: in Honduras, on the territory near the border. They are receiving support and financing from the U.S. Government. The United States is directing them. Is it not an army that is being directed by military advisers? Is it not an army that is getting thousands of rifles and surface-to-air missiles? Isn't the assistance that is being discussed right now in the U.S. Congress -- in the upper and lower houses -- for an army?

The President is asking for $100 million: $70 million in military aid and $30 million in humanitarian aid. He speaks of supplying them with surface-to-air missiles that he has not given the Honduran Army, but that he has already given the mercenary forces in Honduras. The United States is making attempts against Honduras' sovereignty, making Honduras another Lebanon with its policy that has entrenched a sixth army inside Honduran territory near the Nicaraguan border.

[Question] Salvador Martinez of EXCELSIOR. Mr President, next week there is a new Contadora meeting, and it has also been announced that there will be a meeting of presidents in Esquipulas [Guatemala]. There also appears to be progress in the achievement of peace and control over the border between Nicaraguan and Costa Rica. Are the recent attacks and the eruption of battles on the border with Honduras an attempt to block the advances for a negotiated peace among the Central American presidents?

[Ortega] I think the greatest attack has been launched by the United States, rejecting the call issued by Contadora and the Lima Group through the Caraballeda document. It has been rejected by the U.S. President. On the contrary, instead of taking steps in favor of peace, he has launched a campaign in favor of the $100 million. The fact itself that the U.S. President has undertaken a campaign to request $100 million is an attack against the Contadora peace efforts.

It is the greatest obstacle against Contadora. The military tension on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, the participation of U.S. troops and U.S. helicopters in support of the mercenary forces, the U.S. decision to involve U.S. military advisers on the spot are new elements that unquestionably must be the priority points to be discussed in the next Contadora meeting, and we are making this known to the foreign ministers and representatives of the Contadora and Lima Groups.

[Question] Filadelfo Martinez of ACAN-EFE. How far away from the border with Honduras have these battles taken place?

[Ortega] Well, they have taken place in border territory.

[Question] Mr President, are you willing to down a helicopter or whatever of the U.S. Army even if this entails the beginning of a direct war confrontation with that country?

[Ortega] Well some years ago a U.S. helicopter crossed the Nicaraguan border, and it was downed. If they violate Nicaraguan territory again, they will also be downed, even if as a result the U.S. troops are launched against our country.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from the "Sandinist Newscast." The U.S. defense secretary recently said that Honduras supported the U.S. position and the presence of the counterrevolutionary forces there. The United States was unable to involve Honduras in this maneuver to create a crisis in the border region. Does Nicaragua believe that this means that there is a change in the Honduran Government, that there was Honduran resistance to being involved in the Reagan administration's maneuver?

[Ortega] If we follow the statements of the U.S. Government and those of the Honduran Government about the alleged Nicaraguan invasion of Honduras or the alleged Nicaraguan aggression against Honduras, we will find constant contradictions. The United States would state one thing, and then the Honduran Government would state just the opposite. Of course, the pressures on Honduras must have been great. Nevertheless, we believe that the Honduras Government is weighing the decision of seeking a peaceful solution to all these problems and not becoming involved a war. We think this is an opinion that is strong in the Honduran Government because it is the view of the Honduran people who do not want to be involved in a war with Nicaragua, in a war that has been artificially created by the United States. Therefore, we value the efforts undertaken by the Honduran Government not to fall into the trap of a confrontation with Nicaragua and to seek a peaceful solution to the existing problems. Therefore, we hope that the Honduran Government will be receptive to this proposal for a mixed commission of verification and control which would surely help ease tensions in the border territory. I think it would be a commission comprised of representatives of the Contadora Group and the Lima Group to supervise and control the Honduran-Nicaraguan border territory. That would help ease tensions in the border territory.

[Question] Mr President, when did those battles in the border zone take place, and on what date was the main contra camp destroyed? How many casualties were there on both sides during that battle or that occupation?

[Ortega] There have been a series of confrontations and battles in the past 15 days. All of these events have taken place during this series of confrontations and battles and, as I explained, the total number of casualties was more than 600 dead and wounded for the mercenary forces and 153 casualties for the EPS.

[Question] (?The exact date)?

[Ortega] It has been in that period. All those operations and actions took place in that period.

[Question] But you do not know on what date the main camp was destroyed?

[Ortega] It was throughout this period, throughout this period. All these operations took place in a 15-day period.

[Question] Mr President, I understand, from a military point of view, Nicaragua's right to defend itself. But from a political viewpoint, knowing that there was this debate going on in Washington, how did you make that military decision in the framework of that political context?

[Ortega] We cannot make the defense of our sovereignty and of our territorial integrity dependent on Yankee decisions. Nicaragua is not a state of the United States, and it is no colony of the United States. Therefore, let them debate whatever they want in the United States, where they are trying to decide on the fate of Nicaragua, because here we are not going to accept their decisions but will confront their decision if they try to attack the Nicaraguan people. In the meantime, we are not going to weaken the defense of our territorial integrity -- that is, paralyze our defensive operations -- while they are engaged in a debate in the United States.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] The problem is that the Reagan administration is always looking for excuses from everywhere and trying to impress the U.S. people and the people of the world with these excuses, which are lies. He fabricates lies. President Reagan has characterized himself as being the president who best makes up lies. [sentence as heard] The President of the United States is the greatest manufacturer of lies. He is a big manufacturer of lies. However, the lies he inflates and are momentarily believed are later unmasked.

[Question] Mr President, can you tell us about the five soldiers who died in Honduras?

[Ortega] We learned about this from news reports today. We cannot prove that they are Sandinist soldiers. We have no evidence. We cannot affirm this. Considering the campaign that has been mounted against Nicaragua, we would not be surprised if they were to present bodies of contras as bodies of Sandinists, but we are going to investigate it in any event, because when there are clashes on border territory, they could have taken bodies of our combatants. That possibility exists.

[Question] Mr President, within the context of what has been discussed and the recent initiative of Nicaragua as a nonaligned member - country, how does this occurring in Nicaragua fit in? Could it possibly be a challenge against the Nonaligned Movement?

[Ortega] We believe that the aggression by the United States against Nicaragua is an aggression, first of all, against Latin America and, first of all, [as heard] also against the peoples comprising the Nonaligned Movement. By its very nature, Latin America is identified with and many Latin American countries participate in the Nonaligned Movement.

Here there is a veritable challenge for what is the defense of the policy of nonalignment, wherein Nicaragua appears with a revolution defending a policy of nonalignment under attack by the United States, which wants Nicaragua to be an aligned Nicaragua, subject to its aggressive and terrorist policy throughout the world. Therefore, we believe that here the Nonaligned Movement has a challenge in defending this country, which is to defend the interest of the movement.

[Question] Mr President, can you tell us if during the telephone conversation with President Azcona you raised the possibility of establishing a mixed border commission, and if so, what was President Azcona's reaction?

[Ortega] We did not discuss that topic at that moment, although the topic had already been raised in the wake of the talks held with Costa Rica. Since there had been no heightening of tension at that moment, not even created artificially between Honduras and Nicaragua, such tension did not exist; it was created subsequently, and there was fighting. When I spoke to President Azcona there was fighting under way with the mercenary forces on the border territory. They are trying to make an incursion, to invade our country, so there is fighting under way. But since there is no confrontation with the Honduran Army, with Honduran troops, there is no such aggression by Nicaragua against Honduras, against any township. It is Nicaragua's defensive capacity that is being attacked from Honduran territory by the mercenary forces.

Therefore, when we spoke to President Azcona, there was no heightened tension, and we did not touch on the topic because we figured that it was advancing normally, just as we had already discussed following the talks between Honduras and Nicaragua to establish that commission. On that occasion we discussed with President Azcona the upcoming meeting. The only thing he told us was his concern at that moment after having been told by the chief of the Air Force, I believe, that there were Nicaraguan helicopters that had flown over Honduran territory. I asked him in what region. He replied: Cifuentes. I assured him that nowhere in Honduran territory are there Nicaraguan helicopters flying and that he could rest totally assured of that, and I immediately confirmed this with the Nicaraguan Air Force, that there had been no such flights in the border territory. In other words, that information was false. That was the only thing we discussed.

[Question] Mr President, does Nicaragua have the same policy toward Costa Rica as it does toward Honduras regarding the mercenaries in Costa Rica? Will Nicaragua consider that this territory is a war zone and not Costa Rican territory, and can Nicaragua attack the mercenaries located in Costa Rican territory?

[Ortega] We are not setting any thesis to the effect that if the counterrevolutionaries are in Honduran territory or in Costa Rican territory we are going to attack them there. What we believe in is the right to defend ourselves from those territories. We defend ourselves on the border territory; that is what is happening. In Costa Rica there have been serious tensions; you know perfectly well the tensions that have existed with Costa Rica, and to the extent that we have been able to control our border territory, there were great tensions with Costa Rica. We have advanced in regard to these tensions by establishing this verification and control commission. We have advanced in regard to the discussions of the same, at least, to establish this commission between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Although the commission is not a reality as yet, we have advanced in the discussions, there have been meetings, and we hope that this, too, can be worked out with Honduras.

[Question] Mr President, John Quinonez of ABC News. Do you expect that the rest of the U.S. Congress will approve the aid?

[Ortega] The correct and just thing on the part of the United States, the respectful thing on the part of the U.S. Congress toward themselves, toward the U.S. people, toward international opinion would be to flatly reject that aid requested by the President of the United States and to promote a dialogue policy between the United States and Nicaragua to overcome these problems. However, the way the discussion looks now, there is a marked tendency that they will approve the aid to the mercenary forces. This will continue to be an obstacle to overcoming these problems through dialogue, through the peaceful path; it will continue to be a blow to the peace-keeping efforts of the Contadora Group. But the most serious thing is that it will be supporting the policy of Vietnamization which the U.S. Administration is promoting against Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, allow me a question, if you please, in English. [continues in English] Mr Foreign Minister, do you feel that your attack against the contra forces, characterized as an invasion by the Reagan administration, do you feel that that attack contributed to the approval of the contra aid package by the Senate?

[D'Escoto -- in English] Quite independent of the events in the last couple weeks in which we have been involved in carrying out our duty to defend our country, I think it was clear to everyone that the United States Senate was going to approve the aid. Looking at it from afar, I would even dare say that no one thought that Reagan, no one thought that the margin would be any narrower than it actually was. Many had hoped that as a result of this campaign of defamation against Nicaragua, that he would sweep, but he didn't. I think he launched it too early, because the first day I think he carried about 80 percent credibility; by the second day it was down to 60, and by the third day everyone was angry because they realized it was a lie, it was a manipulation, they tried to say that Nicaragua had invaded Honduras, that we had transgressed the principles and norms of civilized international behavior, that we have violated the Charter of the United Nations, and everyone knows that we did not do that. Then he was caught in this ridiculous situation, that Honduras itself was saying that nothing had happened. And the President goes to the beach. And then President Reagan is going around hysterically. It was an ugly manifestation of the fact that he is very, very concerned that his instruments for aggression against Nicaragua are being totally disputed. And I guess he knows by now that $100 million or $200 million more is not going to make a difference. If he persists and if his political determination is to invade and even advance, we are not being subjected. [sentence as heard]

[Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto -- in English] We have never invaded Honduras. We have never transgressed any of the norms set down by international law. We have not violated the territorial integrity or sovereignty of Honduras. [Words indistinct] you see, the reason for the charge is to characterize Nicaragua as an aggressor. And that is the question. Has Nicaragua committed an act of aggression? The answer is quite clear. Categorically, no; at no moment in time has Nicaragua in the past, in the last few days, or in the future. [Sentence as heard] We will never become an aggressor. The only aggressor of Central American territories, integrity, and sovereignty is the United States of America, since it is the one that has violated the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Honduras, as well as of Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr President, no civilian casualties have been mentioned in these past few minutes. Peasants, cattlemen, and coffee growers live in this war zone. I would like to ask you about this. We should also like to know whether you can tell us the type of helicopter destroyed in the camp.

[Ortega] We have no information about civilian casualties. The helicopter is the type that the U.S. Government has supplied to the mercenary forces. This type of helicopter is U.S.-made.

[Question -- in English] You said that not in the past, not now, and not in the future will Nicaragua invade Honduras. However, there seems to be a definitional problem of where Honduras is now.

[D'Escoto -- in English] We will not commit an act of aggression. Please mind my words -- an act of aggression. We have not in the past, in the recent past, nor will we the future. We will never be aggressors.

[Question -- in English] The question of where Honduras begins at this point emerges.

[D'Escoto -- in English] The question is not where Honduras begins, but the question is one of international law. I refer you to the norms of conduct for the countries that belong to the United Nations and the community of civilized nations, norms of conduct that are given for these countries to observe. The only one that has violated these norms of conduct is the United States of America. It is spreading state terrorism, and fostering death and destruction. Any other question is irrelevant. I think that Honduras, as a sovereign and independent nation, deserves more respect from the United States. You see, we have a government that doesn't speak for itself. The United States [words indistinct] wonderful democracy in Honduras. Let Hondurans speak for themselves [words indistinct] when sovereignty or integrity is being violated by any country.

[Question -- in English] Where does the sovereignty [words indistinct]?

[D'Escoto -- in English] I think this is quite irrelevant right now. We could engage in a philosophical discussion later, but I think the problem is that Nicaragua is not an aggressor, the United States is the aggressor. Honduras has said quite clearly that we have not committed an act of aggression and that this was the greatest campaign launched by the President of the United States as an act of desperation because he feels that the mercenary troops are being totally defeated.

[D'Escoto -- in English] If anyone enters our territory in an act of aggression, we will -- in fulfillment of our duty to defend our nation -- deal with them the way that any nation would have to deal against an aggression, be they American helicopters of whatever. And I think everyone knows that almost the whole, or at least, I would say the greatest part of the northern border, the border between Nicaragua and Honduras, has become [words indistinct] army that the United States has created and has installed in that whole area.

[Question -- in Portuguese] [Words indistinct] decided to attack the counterrevolution wherever it is. I ask: [Words indistinct] this moment a demonstration of force and organization on the part of Nicaragua from the military standpoint [words indistinct] your response, or your message to President Reagan?

[Ortega] We have not adopted the decision to attack the counterrevolutionaries wherever they are. It must be borne in mind that the heads of the counterrevolutionaries are in the United States, in the White House, in the Pentagon. They are the chiefs of the counterrevolutionaries. They are the ones who are attacking Nicaragua. These are nothing but tools of that terrorist policy. It has always been our decision to defend Nicaragua from attacks against it and we will continue defending Nicaragua from the attacks that the mercenary forces launch against us.

We do not attack; we defend ourselves. We are attacked, which is different. We defend ourselves from those who attack us.

[Station announcer] This was Radio Sandino, voice of the revolution, broadcasting the press conference President Commander Daniel and Foreign Minister Father Miguel D' Escoto Brockman at the Directorate of Information and Press of the Presidency of the Republic.

U.S. SENATE VOTES APPROVAL OF CONTRA AID

PA281356 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1212 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The U.S. Senate has approved the Reagan administration's plans to continue the war against Nicaragua. It was reported from the U.S. capital last night that the U.S. Senate approved by a close vote of 53 to 47 the aid requested by President Ronald Reagan for the Somozist counterrevolutionaries.

The Republican-sponsored bill approved in the Senate authorizes the Reagan administration to immediately use $25 million in military [as heard] aid for the contras and establishes a 90-day period during which efforts must be undertaken to achieve a peaceful regional solution to the Nicaraguan situation, in other words, to have Nicaragua yield. If this is not achieved, then Reagan could use the rest of the $75 million in aid for his quote, freedom fighters, unquote, who for several years have been causing destruction and killing the Nicaraguan people.

Radio Sandino has been receiving telephone calls from radio stations of Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, and Panama, among others, requesting reports on our people's reaction to the Senate approval of the $100 million for the contras. The interest and concern in the continent are evident in view of the imperialist power's decision to destroy the revolutionary government through armed aggression. If the contras do not achieve it, then the Yankee Marines will come. Our reply to our radio journalist colleagues has been what our people have stated: The gringos will be bogged down in Nicaragua and Central America, which will be turned into another Vietnam whose fire could also reach the United States.

An official reaction is expected this morning to the Senate decision that will lead to a new debate in the House of Representatives which had rejected Reagan's request last week.

MINISTRY CLAIMS 600 CONTRA CASUALTIES INFLICTED

PA272202 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2156 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Defense Ministry reported today that the Sandinist Army inflicted about 600 casualties on rebel units during recent clashes in the northern part of the country.

U.S. ROLE ON HONDURAS-NICARAGUA SITUATION VIEWED

Commentary on Reagan's 'Lie'

PA302318 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Some news media in collaboration with Washington insist on spreading Ronald Reagan's lie about the presumed violation of the Honduran border by Nicaraguan troops. While such lies proliferate, so far not even the White House, with its sophisticated means of observation and espionage, has been able to furnish the slightest proof of the alleged Nicaraguan invasion.

Evidently the distorted reports published in the pro-U.S. media are merely speculations originating in those media sources, or provided by the CIA or Pentagon agents who invented the story. Nicaragua has responsibly reiterated that not even one Sandinist solider has crossed the Honduran border after inflicting hundreds of casualties on the former Somozist guards, who do find shelter in that neighbor country.

Although it is true that the U.S. President has ridiculed himself by spreading lies, the role of the brand new Honduran Government in all this provocation is just as ridiculous. Official Honduran sources initially denied the U.S. reports on the incident. However, due to Washington's pressure, hours later they joined the unscrupulous campaign. What Tegucigalpa did not foresee is that in so doing, it reaffirmed its submissive role to Washington's policy. It turned out that the United States learned before Honduras that the territory of that Central American nation had been trespassed upon by presumed Sandinist forces. Washington approved the urgent delivery of $30 million [as received] to the alleged victim, based on a request from Tegucigalpa that was never made. The poorly coordinated lie came to the surface, and Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo again found himself trapped in Regan's anti-Nicaraguan campaign, to which he seems to be adapting without much difficulty.

Ortega Warning to U.S. Officers

PA292347 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Report by Estrella Diaz, "special correspondent" in Managua]

[Text] During a press conference in Managua on Friday, Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega said: Let's not be surprised to see a U.S. helicopter shot down by Sandinist fighters one of these days. Let's not be surprised to see U.S. officers killed. The U.S. Government will be solely responsible for its aggressive and disrespectful involvement in the conflict by supporting mercenary forces (?stationed) in Honduras. Ortega pointed out that the United States makes great efforts to involve Honduras. Since this country has not responded, the United States has made up its mind to act on its own. Ortega said: This is most serious because it shows that President Reagan does not intend to listen to the voice of Latin America, to that of Contadora, or to that of the Lima Group to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Ortega had this to say about the approval of President Reagan's proposal at the Senate.

[Begin recording] What does this mean? It means that the trend in the U.S. Congress has been to continue to strengthen the U.S. Government's terrorist policy in Central America. Since the mercenary forces have no future even if U.S. military advisers get there and even if U.S. aircraft -- helicopters, and so forth -- are used in an effort to protect these mercenary forces, the Congress has committed itself to an interventionist policy in Nicaragua. This is why we say that the latest steps taken will turn the conflict into one similar to Vietnam. [end recording]

Mexican Paper Cited

PA302212 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Report by Francisco Ramirez via telephone from Mexico City -- live or recorded]

[Text] In an article written by its correspondent in Tegucigalpa, the Mexican daily EXCELSIOR pointed out that the United States has become stage director in the current conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua, a conflict which has been artificially created on the eve of the U.S. Senate's vote on the request for $100 million for the Nicaraguan contras.

EXCELSIOR said that the omnipresent U.S. Government officials anticipate the news reports in Washington, conduct the public relations for President Jose Azcona Hoyo's government, take journalists to the border, and deliver the official reports to them. They also transport Honduran troops in their helicopters and, of course, they pay for this operation in dollars, EXCELSIOR reported, referring to the airlift of thousands of Honduran soldiers to face an alleged Sandinist invasion.

After noting that the Americans, as they are called in that Central American country, are in the Armed Forces staff, in the Air Force, in the Foreign Secretariat, in towns bordering with Nicaragua, EXCELSIOR said that the number will increase in April, when the joint military maneuvers are stepped up. Since 1981 to date, the United States and Honduras have carried out 19 joint military exercises which, in addition to trying to pressure Nicaragua, have served to acclimatize the U.S. troops in the region and to create a strong permanent military resource.

In another part of its documented report, the Mexican daily EXCELSIOR said that in the specific case of the contras, Washington is facing growing difficulties due to the military ineptitude of its protegees, as well as their lack of popularity among the Honduran population. For the majority of the people, the so-called contras are not -- as they are for Ronald Reagan -- freedom fighters, but bandits trained solely to handle weapons, who have sowed terror in many Honduran towns.

Paz Barnica on Aid to Contras

PA282300 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] For years the Honduran authorities have been attempting to conceal a truth that is clearer than water: The counterrevolutionary bands that operate against Nicaragua enjoy all kinds of guarantees in Honduras which they conspicuously put to use throughout the entire border region that divides the two Central American countries.

Former Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, after thousands of statements denying that presence, has now publicly admitted that during the Suazo Cordova administration the bands of former Somozist guardsmen used Honduras as a safe haven and that it was through that country that the contras received the aid sent from Washington. However, this apparent confession by Paz Barnica neither comes as a surprise nor frees the current Honduran regime presided over by Azcona Hoyo from its responsibilities. The new president repeats more or less the same imprecisions as his predecessor, namely, that he has no knowledge of the presence of counterrevolutionary camps in Honduras, to which he adds that the border with Nicaragua is long and difficult to control.

The denial has now come straight from inside Honduras. The inhabitants of the eastern El Paraiso Department have reported the alarming presence in that area of former Somozist guardsmen who, harassed by troops of the EPS have crossed the border into Honduras, where they commit all kinds of outrages against the local population. According to area residents, the mercenary groups have established three camps in the area, from where they stage raids against farm areas and the humble dwellings of the Honduran peasants.

The savage behavior of those who Reagan is fond of calling freedom fighters is always the same: rapes, looting, squabbles, and murders. In reaction to the people's complaints, the government in Tegucigalpa claims to have sent authorities to look into those reports. However, like in Roberto Suazo's days, the crimes and the banditry go unpunished.

The fact is that nothing can be done against this plague by those who have allowed their country to be turned into a Yankee military base, which is serving at this moment as the staging grounds for the 1986 version of the "Cabanas" and "Terencio Sierra" maneuvers, while U.S. ships carrying nuclear weapons visit Costa Rica to also conduct war games in the Central American Pacific area.

The Yankee presence in Honduras is no less harmful than the presence of the contras. It has been publicly charged that the virtual occupation forces are terrorizing the inhabitants of Comayagua, where the U.S. base of Palmerola is located. Several minors have been sexually abused by the soldiers and four women have been infected with AIDS, the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, of which Reagan's glorious soldiers are carriers.

'Our America' Commentary

PA280447 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his brand new advisers do not stop plotting to have $100 million delivered to the ex-Somozist guards, gangs that operate against Nicaragua from Honduran territory. The conflict generated in the past few hours on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border has been created with the pretext of an alleged invasion of Sandinist forces against the bordering country. Of course, it is no wonder that it was the U.S. imperialists who first announced such a big lie. Apparently they control Honduras much more strictly than the government of Jose Azcona Hoyo himself. Once advised, Reagan was not late in announcing an additional $20 million in military aid for Honduras to help this country cope with what he described as a Nicaraguan adventurous spirit.

No less alarming is the news about a broad combat deployment at the border with Nicaragua that includes part of the U.S. troops who, curiously, are in Honduras participating in the provocative "Cabanas" and "Terencio Sierra" exercises this year. Nicaragua has categorically denied that its forces, bent on eliminating the gangs of ex-Somozist guards based in Honduras, have violated this country's borders. Nicaragua asked the Contadora Group to send to the border area immediately a supervisory and control commission to determine where the aggressions really originate.

Most noteworthy in this situation is that Honduras -- on Wednesday morning -- hurried to flatly deny that its territory had been attacked by the EPS as Washington had asserted. Regarding this, Lisandro Quezada, press secretary for the Presidency in Honduras, said that the country had not been invaded and that, therefore, Azcona Hoyo had not requested any U.S. military aid. Shortly after this slip, Tegucigalpa contradicted itself openly by asserting that, indeed, just as Washington asserted, Nicaraguan troops had penetrated Honduran territory.

According to a local saying that helps us disentangle this gambit, a word to the wise is sufficient. The presumed proof of the Sandinist attack is so vague and ridiculous that Major Jorge Arguello, Honduran Armed Forces public relations director, could not tell the press whether the reports about the downing of a Honduran helicopter by Nicaraguan forces were true or false. Neither could the officer indicate the exact point through which the Sandinists entered Honduran territory. He gave the press only an inaccurate and conventional answer by saying: The Armed Forces are ready to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This phrase was uttered at the time when thousands of U.S. troops usurp national territory with the consent of local authorities. Such antecedents result in an unmistakable odor of a gross hoax emanating from all this. Such a fabrication cannot convince even the most gullible observer.

LATIN AMERICAN STAND AT IDB MEETING VIEWED

PA310326 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The 27th meeting of the IDB has concluded its deliberations with more pain than glory. It proposed no solution for the vital foreign debt of Latin America. This was the topic most discussed during the meeting. It was unanimously proclaimed that this problem is becoming an increasingly heavy burden and that it represents a destabilization factor. The obstructionist activities of the United States were again notorious. The U.S. representatives disagreed with the Latin American nations' requests that the IDB reform its structure and play the role it should play with regard to the foreign debt problem.

The Latin American and Caribbean countries presented unified positions during several aspects of the discussions which were not to the liking of the delegations from the United States and other Western industrialized countries. The statements made by the Latin Americans made it clear that there is deep resentment over the treatment that the capitalist developed countries have given the foreign debt -- treatment that has provoked the stagnation of economies and social conflicts.

One sign of the egoism characteristic of the United States was the position of the U.S. representatives at the IDB meeting. The U.S. representatives ineffectually tried to reform the IDB voting system. The White House wants to eliminate the possibility that a Latin American majority will exert influence on IDB agreements to the detriment of U.S. interests. Washington finds it essential that international economic organizations be under its control so it can use them as a blackmail tool against independent governments. It was in this framework that the U.S. delegates presented an ultimatum at the meeting. They said their country could stop giving funds to the IDB if the Latin Americans do not accept Washington's commands.

Throughout the meeting, many spoke in favor of the IDB providing additional funds for development and for the organization advocating distribution of the weight of the foreign debt between rich creditors and the debtors. The United States has decided that it was enough to tell its representatives to deplore the results of the foreign debt without telling them to propose measures aimed at finding real solutions for the gloomy problem. The U.S. praise for the often-mentioned Baker Plan was not seconded by the Latin American delegates, who on many occasions pointed out the endless deficiencies of the project, which has been presented as a panacea by the government of Ronald Reagan.

This annual IDB meeting is already part of the past, but observers clearly noticed that the sessions were unable to objectively satisfy Latin America's economic demands.

FAR MARKS DEFEAT OF SOUTH AFRICANS IN ANGOLA

FL282019 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] FAR units are celebrating today the 10th anniversary of the repulsion of the invading South African troops from the territory of the People's Republic of Angola, which took place on 27 March 1976. In meetings being held today at FAR units, an address to all troops by Division General Raul Castro is being read. Following is the text of Div Gen Raul Castro's declaration.

Ten years ago, on 27 March 1976, the heroic troops of the FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] and our internationalist combatants drove back the invading South African troops which were attempting to keep the African Continent under the yoke of racism, apartheid, colonialism, and imperialist domination. The defeat of the Army of the backward Pretoria regime has altered the scene in the southern end of Africa. Other colonies attained independence. Zimbabwe was liberated; the Namibian people stepped up their struggle; and, in South Africa itself, the black masses are rebelling against such an opprobrious system of exploitation.

Since then, events indicate that South Africa, the United States' favorite ally in the region, has very little time left. Racism and apartheid will be forever eliminated. But, the beast continues to lash out with the claws with its criminal actions, the political maneuvers and military attacks do not stop. A visceral hatred motivates South Africa and the United States against Angola. They are even attempting to link the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from that fraternal country, a perverse pretext to check the decolonialization of that rich and strategic territory.

Today Angola's independence is still threatened. South Africa is rearming with U.S. assistance. They are using all financial resources, training and arming UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] counterrevolutionaries, who carry out brutal and criminal acts against the people and those who help them. Troops of the apartheid Army are stationed in Cunene and are threatening with broadening their warlike expansionist goals. Namibia continues to be occupied by South African troops and now serves as a staging area for new aggressions. Blind with hatred they are doing everything possible to destablize the Angolan revolution. They are attempting to frighten the people who defeated them once before. But neither Angola nor our internationalist combatants will retreat. As proclaimed by the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] - Labor Party Politburo, the Angolan revolution is irreversible and will overcome the aggressions and difficulties unleashed by the Pretoria regime and Washington.

In our case, the blood the Cuban combatants, Latin Americans, shed with courage, selflessness, and devotion, will never dry out. We are ready to repeat, as often as necessary, the feats of 10 years ago at Quifangondo, Ebo, and Konde. Let us repeat today the statement by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz during the mass rally held on the occasion of the closing of the first Cuban Communist Party congress: Because of the duties demanded by our principles, our ideology, our convictions, and our own blood, we will defend Angola, and we will defend Africa. Fatherland or death, we shall win!

HAITIAN COMMUNIST LEADER VIEWS LOCAL SITUATION

PA300400 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 86

["Analysis" by Rene Theodore, secretary general general of the United Party of Haitian Communists; date not given -- recorded; in French with simultaneous translation into Spanish]

[Text] Demonstrations in Port-au-Prince had paralyzed the entire city. Simultaneously, tires were burned at all corners of Commercial Street, Port-au-Prince's main street, interrupting traffic. All this was in addition to widespread strikes of taxi drivers and buses serving the outskirts-capital route.

What really happened was that the conflict between the National Council of the Government and the people was aggravated.

Much manipulation by privileged sectors occurred. These sectors saw their privileges threatened by the fact that the popular movement was not only more and better organized but also more and more aware of what was at stake. The agitation was against the regime itself and for its substitution through an impossible plan that entailed deposing the National Council of the Government and replacing it with a civilian government, the names of whose members no one was willing to mention. What would be the basis for this government? How genuine could the people's representation in such a government be?

When the conflict began to intensify and the people rose against the Council of the Government -- this makes it truly possible to carry out the change -- this became very dangerous, because even the manipulations of the Duvalier-oriented sectors were clearly seen. These sectors tried to take advantage of the situation to bring about, let's say, an irremediable conflict.

At this time, the United Party of the Haitian communists and other political sectors issued a communique acknowledging the genuineness of the people's struggle and their right to go out onto the streets to defend their rights, yet appealing to particularly ponder the form of power that would take the place of the current Council of the Government. This appeal asked for more time so as not to engage in a struggle without some prior knowledge of where this struggle would lead.

Several sectors, including the Haitian Communists, opposed the current extremism and exaggeration. Finally, the people's masses obeyed instructions and returned home. Anyway, nothing has been done, except that the National Council has been forced to make several concessions in addition to changes in the cabinet such as the removal of certain undesirable persons from the Council of the Government. Other concessions occurred last night regarding the curfew which was completely lifted. No more curfew as of tonight. In addition, it has been confirmed to the people that all political parties can freely carry out their activities. At this time something is real. Great hopes are entertained that the people's masses will indeed continue to mobilize their organizations whenever they need to and, above all, that the movement is heading toward the formation of a national democratic and popular government, a popular power that would finally be installed in the country.

Interview With Theodore

PA260727 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Interview with Rene Theodore, secretary general of the United Party of Haitian Communists, PUCH, by Josie Pele; date not given -- recorded in French with simultaneous Spanish translation]

[Text] [Pele] Rene Theodore, I would like you to give me a brief analysis of the situation in Haiti.

[Theodore] The current situation in Haiti is marked by the changes that have taken place within the National Government Council and by the numerous demands being made by the people and reiterated in the past 24 hours. Following Gerard Gourgue's resignation, the National Government Council has completely changed. Only two former council members remained, General Henri Namphy and Colonel William Regala. The third member of the council is Jacques Francois, a lawyer and jurist. General Namphy has said that this reshuffle was done to strengthen democracy; that is, for democracy to bloom in Haiti. These were not his own words, but it will give you a general idea. We must now wait for more to be done in this regard.

We must wait because the demands being made affect the National Government Council directly. Many sectors are against the National Government Council. These sectors feel that the chosen departmental representatives should form a provisional government and that elections should be held soon. The people do not want the traditional type elections that only result in presidents who later become autocrats, as has traditionally occurred. They want leaders who will promote and effectively institutionalize the popular movement that had been watching from the sidelines for a long time. The way in which this institutionalization will be done has yet to be defined. We feel that it should be presented and subject to a national debate. As a matter of fact, the PUCH is currently trying to present the need for a national debate before the people. We feel that a national debate on the type of government we need at this moment is necessary and that it would be helpful in resolving the current political crisis.

MALMIERCA, DELEGATION RETURN FROM BAHAMAS

FL281350 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has returned to Havana from the Bahamas, where he held talks with Bahamian Deputy Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister Clement Maynard and Attorney General and Education Minister Paul Adderley. The talks with the Bahamian authorities were held in an atmoshpere of candid cordiality. The two sides discussed matters of bilateral interest.

CASTRO PRESIDES OVER POLITBURO MEETING 27 MARCH

FL281134 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee, presided over the ordinary meeting of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo held on Thursday. The principle research draft for social sciences for the present 5-year period was approved at the meeting. Also studied at the meeting were measures adopted to continue elevating the efficiency of internationalist cooperation that Cuba provides several countries in the health area. The Politburo submitted an extensive analysis on the experiences, results, and deficiencies of agricultural cooperatives as well as the experimental structure of the municipal union of cooperatives. The Politburo adopted a number of decisions and recommendations to erradicate nonagricultural and nonauthorized mercantile activities detected in cooperatives.

RAUL CASTRO ATTENDS GUANTANAMO CEREMONY

FL271126 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] During a ceremony at the Costa Rica Center in Guantanamo, the 28th anniversary of the founding of the Fran Pais Eastern Command of the second front was celebrated by Army General Raul Castro. Raul Michel Vargas, alternate Politburo member and first secretary of the party in Guantanamo, said on this occasion that the historical date coincides with the productive success of the Costa Rica Center's workers who are the first in the province and the country to meet their sugar production goals during the present harvest.

ABRAHANTES SPEAKS AT PSYCHOLOGISTS' CONFERENCE

FL281148 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Division General Jose Abrahantes, Central Committee member and interior minister, has given a special speech at the first congress of the Cuban Psychologists Association which will close today in Havana after 2 days of sessions. Abrahantes referred to the importance of that specialty in the work of the Minint [Interior Ministry] and said that it is one of the state organisms that in a most diverse, universal, and decisive method requires the application of psychology which could also play a more creative role and be of greater human and social significance.

VEIGA SPEAKS AT LABOR, SOCIAL, WOMEN'S MEETING

FL291254 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Only socialism can guarantee labor unions all their rights, possibilities, and freedom, Roberto Veiga, Politburo member and Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions secretary general, has asserted at the closing ceremony of a national meeting on labor, social, and women's affairs. At Havana's Lazaro Pena Theater, labor leaders from every province and national labor unions discussed the work performed last year and their work objectives for this year.

MALMIERCA PRESENTS REPORT AT MINISTRY MEETING

FL261254 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] With great [words indistinct] the Cuban Foreign Ministry annual review meeting, which was presided over by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Isidoro Malmierca, Central Committee member and foreign minister, presented the main report detailing the year's work, which was amended several times in a democratic atmosphere encouraged by the Cuban foreign minister.

CHANGES INTRODUCED TO ECONOMY PLANNING METHODS

FL290108 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] A new methodology will be in effect in state planning. Changes have been introduced to current planning methods. These changes are being submitted to organizations and enterprises and will be made official late. These new methods include viable solutions for present problems and reduces bureaucratic activities aimed at improving the system of directing and planning the economy. The new planning methodology is a result of the agreements reached at the party third congress and implies a structural remodeling of the Central Planning Board.

BAHAMAS

FOREIGN MINISTER SEES OFF CUBAN DELEGATION

FL282210 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable Clement Maynard, bid farewell to his Cuban counterpart yesterday at the conclusion of two days of discussions. Sofie Saunders was at the airport when the delegation departed.

Both Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Malmierca and Bahamian Foreign Minister Maynard expect to derive mutual benefits from the 2 days of discussions. Mr Maynard said a number of key issues were successfully dealt with, among them the boundaries between Cuba and the Bahamas.

[Begin Maynard Recording] Their concerns really made the means for a better understanding and for working out problems on contact, with the point of view of being able to know the personnel here that they are to deal with in case of any difficulties, for instance arrest of their fishing boats. Another thing is that they are concerned about the boundaries with the Bahamas and also a smooth way of working out an arrangement whereby we can agree. [as heard] We are expecting sometime in the near future that there will be some legislation before the House of Assembly which will deal with the provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention which would allow for archipelagic rights for the Bahamas. When that is done we will be able to better negotiate and to discuss these matters in a general way with the public as well as with our neighbors. [end recording]

Mr Malmierca said based on talks with Mr Maynard he anticipates the strengthening of ties between our two countries.

[Begin Malmierca recording, in Spanish with consecutive English translation] We have gone through several aspects of our bilateral relations, and we have confirmed the mutual interest in expanding those relations and the existing possibilities of doing so. [end recording]

Mr Malmierca and his delegation returned to Cuba on board Cubana Airlines.

BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON NATIONAL DEBT

FL291630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1623 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 29, CANA -- The national debt of Barbados climbed to just over one billion dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.) at the end of 1985, the government's latest annual economic report says. The figure represents an increase of 143.7 million dollars or 15.1 per cent on the 1984 total of 950.9 million dollars. Between 1983 and the 1984, the increase was 10.4 per cent.

According to 107-page report, just out, the domestic component of the national debt increased by 11 per cent to reach 650.6 million dollars or 59.4 per cent of the island's total debt.

The foreign component grew by 21.5 per cent compared with 5.1 per cent in 1984 as external borrowings rose from 265.3 million dollars to 444 million.

The largest liability was that to the International Institutions category which stood at 169.6 million dollars or 3.6 per cent over the 1984 level of 163.7 million dollars, and represented 38 per cent of total foreign debt, the report says.

HAITI

CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES RETURNS FROM EXILE

PA310335 Paris AFP in Spanish 0248 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 30 Mar (AFP) -- A new candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Haiti, Clemard Joseph Charles, returned from exile on Sunday to Port-au-Prince, where some 1,000 Haitians welcomed him at the airport.

Clemard Joseph Charles, 62, is the former director of the Commercial Bank of Haiti. Very close at the beginning to "Papa Doc" (President Francois Duvalier) during the 1960's, he was condemned to death in 1971 and accused of "Treason and conspiracy in the internal security of the nation." He was granted parole in 1972 and his penalty commuted to 20 years of hard labor.

Clemard Joseph Charles has been living in the United States since 1976, when he was released by President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

BRAZIL HOLDING FORMER POLICE CHIEF PIERRE

FL291239 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Brazil is considering whether to extradite a former Haitian police chief back to Haiti. The former official is accused of human rights violations during the rule of deposed Haitian leader Jean-Claude Duvalier. Brazilian authorities are holding Colonel Albert Pierre until a ruling is made on the extradition issue. Mr Pierre has been taken into custody by Brazilian officials to prevent him from leaving Brazil while a decision on the extradition is made.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

CHAMBERS THREATENS TO IMPOSE PRICE CONTROLS

FL291204 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Trinidad Prime Minister George Chambers has rejected demands to relax currency exchange controls and threatened to impose price controls if importers continue raising prices by 50 percent. The prime minister told members of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce and Industry that recent 50 percent price increases imposed on some goods as a result of the currency devaluation ordered in December was unreasonable and unjustified. Each Trinidad and Tobago dollar is now worth 27 U.S. cents.

MINISTRY PROTESTS U.S. ARREST OF ARMY CAPTAIN

FL281202 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Suriname has accused the United States of entrapping one of its senior military officials on drug smuggling charges. Suriname is protesting the arrest of an Army captain who is being held without bail on charges of conspiracy to import cocaine while allegedly offering a safe haven for shipping the drug through the former Dutch colony.

The Suriname Foreign Ministry has issued a statement saying the case could seriously impare relations with the United States. The government statement said the involvement of secret agents in North American intelligence services suggests an attempt by the U.S. Government to destabilize the regime in Suriname and isolate it internationally. Suriname says the arrest of the Army captain who was in the United States with a Surinamese diplomatic passport violates diplomatic practice. The officer's lawyer is filing a motion to dismiss the charges on the basis of diplomatic immunity.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department says the captain has not been accredited to the United States and does not have diplomatic immunity.

SOVIET LABOR REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL191934 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Vladimir Nikitin of the foreign relations section of the Soviet labor movement arrived in our country last Monday.

Mr Nikitin, during his visit, will meet with various Surinamese labor leaders. Tomorrow he will be the guest of the labor union federation De Moederbond. Besides meetings with the member unions of this organization, he will also visit some of the companies in which these member unions operate. Mr Nikitin will probably leave Suriname around the 25th of this month.

12-MEMBER COMMISSION TO DRAFT SOCIAL PACT

FL212156 Bridgetown CANA in English 2120 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, March 21, CANA -- A 12-member commission has been appointed to draft a social pact involving the government, the business sector, and trade unions, the government announced.

The commission was installed earlier this month by military leader and Chairman of the Topberaad (supreme consultative organ) Desi Bouterse.

The commission has two months in which to study the socio-economic situation in the country and prepare a draft pact which it will submit to the Topberaad -- the highest political organ here.

Its terms of reference include the development of an economy with as broad a production base as possible, more active involvement of the state and private initiative in the production process, a change in the role of commerce, and a reasonable wage policy.

With regard to salaries, the protocol states that the wage policy should be based on the premise that reasonable salaries should be paid, but that their evolution should not be to the detriment of the country's export competitiveness.

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NICARAGUAN DELEGATE ACCUSES IDB OF DISCRIMINATION

PA260309 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0050 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] San Jose, 25 Mar (DPA) -- The Nicaraguan delegate today accused the IDB of "discriminating against his country in the granting of loans." The accusation was made by Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro within the framework of a broad statement presented at the assembly of IDB governors, which is being held in San Jose, Costa Rica. Cuadra Chamorro said that "for the past 3 and 1/2 years Nicaragua has not received credits from the IDB." He explained that a Nicaraguan request for credit for an agricultural development program, presented 3 and 1/2 years ago. was returned after the IDB pointed out that it had to be updated. Cuadra Chamorro added that "if we update it now (the request) they may tell us in another 3 and 1/2 years that it must be updated again." The Nicaraguan delegate pointed to the United States as "a country that wants to make the IDB its own credit agency."

BCIE TO RECEIVE EXTRAREGIONAL CAPITAL

PA262205 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] An agreement has been signed for the participation of extraregional countries in the Central American Bank of Economic Integration [BCIE]. Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic will make a contribution to the social capital of this regional financial institution. It has been said that the financing of economic and social projects will help to consolidate peace in Central America.

The agreement for the participation of Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic in the BCIE's social capital was signed in the Colonial Room of the Costa Rica Hotel yesterday. The document was signed within the framework of the 27th annual assembly of governors of the Inter-American Development Bank, currently being held in San Jose; it will end today at 1800.

The financing of economic and social projects in Central America will help consolidate peace in Central America. The declaration stresses the political willingness of those governments to participate in the BCIE's capital as extraregional members. The intention is to strengthen the regional financial institution both administratively and financially, and in this manner support the Central American countries' socioeconomic development.

The document noted that this multilateral effort is aimed at supplying the BCIE with the necessary means and conditions to finance economic and social projects that will help in consolidating peace and development in the region.

DEPUTY CAFIERO CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY IN C.A.

PY312149 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Mar 86 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Central American crisis was the subject of two presentations last week in Congress and an interview where Lower House Second Vice-President Antonio Cafiero (Peronist-Buenos Aires) condemned the United States intervention in Nicaragua. Cafiero, who travelled to Nicaragua in January, stated that U.S. policy towards Nicaragua will eventually "backfire against its own interests" because "modern conscience does not accept... intervention in the internal affairs of another country." But he added that Nicaragua's Sandinista government "also has its weaknesses with respect to our understanding of the pluralist and democratic Latin American spirit" in statements to Radio Belgrano.

Senator Ricardo Laferriere (Radical-Entre Rios) presented a bill to request funds from the U.S. government to finance Contadora Group peace initiatives for the region as a response to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's 100-million-dollar aid package to help the Contras in their fight against the Sandinists. The Contadora group would be obliged to inform the U.S. how the money was being spent. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Adolfo Gass (Radical-Buenos Aires) supported Laferriere's bill, arguing that it may not succeed in the international arena but anyhow it will cause an impact.

Deputy Miguel Monserrat (Intransigent-Buenos Aires) presented a bill requesting that the government inform the House about an alleged arms sale to the government of Guatemala, claiming that the sale would violate the treaty signed in Punta del Este by the Contadora Support Group, which includes Argentina. Monserrat's presentation was based on a news story that appeared in the latest edition of El Porteno magazine.

In other Congress news, Senator Olijela del Valle Rivas will present a bill next Wednesday to declare the province of Tucuman a national emergency zone due to the current crisis of the sugar industry, and Lower House Speaker Juan Carlos Pugliese (Radical-Buenos Aires) received a request to expel Deputy Herminio Iglesias (Peronist-Buenos Aires) from former policeman Carlos Alberto Hours, who considers that Iglesias lacks the "capacity and integrity" to sit in parliament. Hours testified in the trial against nine former commanders-in-chief for human rights violations.

Finally Deputy Onofre Briz de Sanchez (Peronist-Chaco) has threatened to resign her seat unless the youth, women and family committee begin a "comparative study" of the divorce draft bill now in Congress after hearing out "all sectors of society with a fixed position."

CUBAN OFFICIAL DISCUSSES TRADE, FOREIGN DEBT

PY311610 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1554 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Catamarca, 30 Mar (TELAM) -- Jose Cruz Gonzalez, Cuba's first secretary for political affairs, has said here that we are on our way to achieving "Latin American integration," which is one of our greatest aspirations.

Cruz Gonzalez added that we are fulfilling this goal regardless of our ability or inability to overcome the crisis stemming from the foreign debt and the unbalanced trade between the developed and the underdeveloped countries. Therefore, we are also striving to build a more just economic order.

The Cuban official, who is visiting Catamarca at the invitation of the provincial government, has met with Governor Ramon Eduardo Saadi and provincial Economy Minister Silvestre Zitelli. After the meeting, Cruz Gonzalez said that his visit to Catamarca reflects the closer ties between Cuba and Argentina and that bilateral relations have been promoted by a cultural, commercial, credit, air transportation, scientific, and technological cooperation agreement signed in 1983, when democracy was restored in Argentina.

Concerning the possibility of Cuba and Catamarca signing bilateral agreements, Cruz Gonzalez said that his country is interested in purchasing manufactured products, specifically farm products like soybeans, onions, and garlic. The Cuban official said that his country can cooperate with development projects, especially in the sugar, citrus, fisheries, health, and education sectors, and in biotechnological research, adding that Cuba's cooperation in these areas is available to Third World countries. Cuba's GNP grew by 7.3 percent over the last 5-year period. No Latin American country has been able to match this figure, except for Brazil in 1985.

Cruz Gonzalez admitted that the world's sugar industry is going through a crisis, because the purchasing power of 1 kg of sugar has substantially decreased over the past 20 years. He added that Cuba has not been hit by the sugar crisis because of its growing production, which last year reached 8 million tons, and because Cuba sells sugar to the socialist countries, which have agreed to pay higher prices.

Concerning the Cuban foreign debt, he said that his country owes some $3 billion, not to the IMF but to European banks, and that the creditors have agreed to the conditions imposed by the Cuban Government, which will repay its debt within its possibilities, relying mostly on its sugar exports. Finally, he said that the agreement with the European creditors was reached despite U.S. pressure.

METALWORKING INDUSTRY SENDS DELEGATION TO CUBA

PY292141 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1615 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Tucuman, 29 Mar (TELAM) -- The Tucuman Chamber of Metalworking Industries has reported that a trade mission made up of representatives from local enterprises and from Salta and Jujuy Provinces will depart for Cuba on Monday, 31 March. The Chamber reported that this will be a private mission, which will not represent any governmental organization and wil seek to establish contacts with Cuban enterprises that might be interested in sugar industry equipment, machinery, and agricultural tools.

In a communique, the chamber stated that our country has thus far based its position on the international market in its traditional role as an exporter of raw materials, that is, it continues to base its growth on resources obtained from the Pampa region and it continues to have a heavy deficit in its balance of payments current accounts. The chamber then emphasized the need for the manufacturing industry to have a responsible, coherent participation in the effort to promote exports.

BANZER, ADN TO CONTINUE PACT FOR DEMOCRACY

PY311405 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Former President Hugo Banzer Suarez has said that his party has decided to continue supporting the pact for democracy, hoping to strengthen it. Banzer made this statement during a press conference last weekend. Banzer Suarez began the press conference by discussing his tour through Brazil, Spain, Italy, and France. He then referred to the current political and economic situation of the country. He talked about the pact for democracy that he signed with Victor Paz Estenssoro [words indistinct].

[Begin recording] The party leadership has decided to continue supporting the pact for democracy because we believe that it is more important than individuals, even groups of individuals, such as the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] and the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action]. The pact is useful. It is currently useful because it gives the impression of political stability, because it discourages destabilizing efforts, and because it contributes in the economic aspect to relative tranquillity. We support it because it serves the country. [end recording]

Hugo Banzer Suarez also explained that his party has some observations to make regarding the tax reform proposed by the government. He added that the country cannot be left without a general budget for 3 years and that the evaluation of the budget, which was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, should be expedited so that it can be approved.

[Begin recording] I am not saying that we agree with the budget submitted to Congress. We do have observations to make -- serious observations. [end recording]

Banzer pointed out that the tax reforms should be changed.

[Begin recording] We are very much concerned over the burden on the resources of Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB]. Although we believe that the demands made on YPFB at a time of crisis can be justified, it should also be temporary and in accordance with the duration of the crisis. In other words, it cannot be permanent, because we could destroy a company that is already becoming the backbone of the state income. We do not want YPFB to become an obsolete enterprise in a short time. Regarding tax reforms, the problems are of a different nature. For example, we disagree with constitutional violations. We have to avoid them. We have made proposals to avoid violations. [end recording]

In conclusion, Banzer said that his party supports the teachers' claims and that an additional budget for education should be approved even if other sectors have to be sacrificed.

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] we support the teachers because we believe their salaries are not high enough. We support them because we believe that education is one of the main functions of the state and because our children cannot live without schools. This is why we have proposed that the budget on education be increased, even by sacrificing other sectors so that teachers can get an acceptable salary increase, bearing in mind that we must all make efforts to overcome the crisis. [end recording]

These were the statements made by ADN leader Hugo Banzer Suarez, who supports the cogovernment although it believes that it is still not the right time to implement it.

DEL VALLE 'REGRETS' SHULTZ' DICTATORSHIP REMARK

PY010159 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle regrets the statements by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who mentioned Chile as one of the four dictatorships left in the continent. Journalist Jose Francisco Contreras will give us more information on the foreign minister's statements.

[Begin recording] [Contreras] And now referring to the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Italy during a papal audience: According to observers this is the first time Shultz has referred to Chile as a dictatorship, one of the four dictatorships left in Latin America, together with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Paraguay, that refuses to enter the redemocratization currently sweeping over Latin America. The foreign minister regretted these statements.

[Del Valle] We maintain a normal relationship with the United States and are aware that these types of comments are made by various government officials usually prompted by the internal U.S. situation. This has already been the case of other countries and now the United States has done the same. We simply regret it and consider that it is a criticism which a government should not make regarding another country with which it maintains diplomatic relations. We could also start criticizing our friendly countries very harshly but do not want to do so. [end recording]

DEL VALLE SAYS RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL 'EXCELLENT'

PY312319 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has termed Chilean relations with Brazil as excellent. The minister made these statements in view of press reports stating that Brazilian-Chilean relations would be cooled down.

[Begin Del Valle recording] That is a biased press report. After it was disseminated the president of Brazil sent his personal representative, the head of protocol, to tell Ambassador Schmidt exactly the opposite. Brazil welcomed Ambassador Schmidt's arrival, so therefore it has already voiced its agreement with his appointment. This incident was caused by a regrettable communique issued by a non-authorized member of the Presidency. The Brazilian foreign minister has reiterated his country's desire that the relations with Chile continue at their current excellent level. [end recording]

The foreign minister also reiterated that relations with the United States are normal. He made this statement in view of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' comments on the democratization process in Chile.

BRITISH MP SAYS CRITICISM OF CHILE 'UNJUST'

PY312310 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] A British MP has stated that foreign criticism of Chile is unjust. British Conservative MP Tristan Garel Jones made this statement after holding a meeting with Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle.

Garel Jones stated that Chile shares with Great Britain the same cultural and intellectual values, emphasizing that criticism of Chile is exaggerated while noting that no one is criticizing the Soviet Union so strongly. The British MP arrived yesterday and will stay in the country until next Saturday to hold several meetings with governmental officials.

FPMR CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLACKOUT

PY010223 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 31 Mar (AFP) -- A blackout hit Chile tonight affecting the metropolitan region of Santiago, along a line extending 1,000 km. The blackout came at the end of a day of student protests that resulted in 6 wounded, approximately 30 detained persons and a large amount of damage.

The Carabineros militarized police has reported that the cut in the electricity supply to Coquimbo, Santiago, Vina del Mar and Concepcion was due to breakdowns in the plants that supply electricity to the entire central region. The clandestine leftist Manuel Rodriquez Patriotic Front (FPMR) claimed responsibility for the attacks through anonymous telephone calls to foreign news agencies and the local media.

The blackout occurred at 0023 GMT at a time when Santiago's downtown area was the scene of violent confrontations between the militarized police and hundreds of demonstrators who demanded the clearing up of the kidnapping and murder of three members of the opposition that occurred 1 year ago Sunday. After the blackout, Carabineros helicopters with powerful searchlights patrolled certain sectors to prevent disorder, while some explosions could be heard and the beginnings of fires were being announced.

The commemoration of the first anniversary of the killing of communist professionals Santiago Nattino, Jose Manuel Parada, and Manuel Guerrero at the hands of an armed commando who slit their throats, has provoked violent clashes between hundreds of demonstrators and heavily armed police forces. A specially-appointed civilian judge implicated Carabinero officials and agents in the case which afterward led to the resignation of Carabinero Director General Cesar Mendoza, who had been a member of the government junta for 11 years. Nevertheless, higher courts overturned the ruling handed down by Judge Jose Canovas and the chief suspects were set free.

Hundreds of youths, who held quick meetings challenging police actions in downtown Santiago and other districts, demanded justice and liberty. Bonfires appeared in some areas in downtown Santiago when several groups burned cardboard, wood, and papers, disrupting traffic. Four buses were burned.

In one of the incidents, Carabinero Hernan Martinez was stabbed in his back while the Carabinero agents were restraining groups of demonstrators on the Ahumada Avenue. Two other Carabineros were seriously injured. Leopoldo Correa, a correspondent for the U.S. television network CBS, was injured by a tear gas canister that hit him in the face and a student was injured when he was retrained by the Carabinero agents. Some incidents were still occurring around 0200 GMT in suburban districts where groups opposing the regime of General Augusto Pinochet were setting up barricades and shouting slogans against the regime.

BOMB ATTACKS BLACK OUT LOTA, CORONEL 28 MARCH

PY290030 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2343 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- Two bomb attacks caused blackouts in the cities of Lota and Coronel, where Chile's largest coal mines are located. Lota and Coronel are neighboring cities located 530 km south of Santiago. The power outage occurred at 2300 on 27 March (0300 GMT 28 March), when the third shift of miners was getting ready to enter the mines to work. The third shift of workers, which could not start work because of the blackout, returned to work today. Carabineros have reported that unidentified individuals detonated explosives at two high-tension towers linked to this important region and to the city of Arauco, 570 km south of Santiago.

2 BANKS, MORMON CHURCH BOMBED IN SANTIAGO

PY281968 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1617 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- A Mormon church and two bank offices (one of them belonging to the Banco Exterior de Espana) were attacked with bombs last night and early this morning in Santiago. One bomb went off at the door of the Pedro de Valdivia branch of the Banco Exterior de Espana and another bomb exploded outside the National Bank office located on Vitacura Avenue, in the fashionable eastern sector of Santiago. The bombs caused only slight damage. A third bomb exploded in a church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon), causing a fire, which was put out by firemen but caused moderate damage, according to an official report.

DISAGREEMENTS REAPPEAR IN NATIONAL ACCORD

PY292126 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p C3

[Excerpts] Disagreements which appeared within the National Accord toward the end of last year reappeared again yesterday during the meeting held by the signatories and called by the Accord's coordinator Sergio Molina. Some of the leaders participating in the meeting, the first one this year, said that a majority favored reviving the Accord and promoting a peaceful social mobilization.

It was said that the basic disagreement was expressed by Andres Allamand, leader of the National Unity, who confirmed after the meeting that his statement of 3 January is still valid. In that statement he said that the National Accord is not a political pact or a conglomerate of parties and that the National Unity will not participate in joint actions with the opposition sectors that signed the Accord. Allamand said that the doubts he had in January, when he stated that "the Accord is not an operational resort," were fully confirmed during yesterday's meeting.

Allamand said that most opposition parties insist on their thesis of social mobilization with a clearly "insurrectional" objective, which the National Unity has repeatedly rejected. He warned that the social mobilization is being prepared and will be carried out with the active participation of the Communist Party, which undoubtedly does not agree with one of the basic principles of the Accord, which is its rejection of the use of violence.

In the second place he said that in the opinion of the National Unity, the Accord is basically a document seeking an understanding with the government and the Armed Forces. Allamand added that the intention to promote civil disobedience in 1986, with the aim of ending the constitutional mandate of the Armed Forces before it expires, therefore contradicts the expressed goal of seeking an understanding.

Allamand concluded that "it is not right to give the public, the Catholic Church which promoted the document, and the signers themselves a false picture of the present situation of the Accord, or of the substantial and decisive disagreements prevailing within the Accord. It is still worse to make people believe that the document authorizes those who have signed it to carry out actions which distort its purposes, because this leads to a distortion of its original meaning."

In turn, National Accord coordinator Sergio Molina admitted that there are disagreements among those who signed the document, but he stressed that there is no split. He termed yesterday's meeting "a good meeting because it was very frank and all the participants gave their opinion on the present situation." He then reiterated that the document seeks procedures for a transition to democracy. He added: "Some people have committed themselves to social mobilization and believe that it is the most adequate method. There are others who will not participate, and they have a right to abstain. The 11 political groups cannot possibly agree on everything. We must become used to some dissent."

He asserted that those of the signatories who are for mobilization intend to promote it peacefully. The coordinator said: "The problem is this: Since there has been no possibility of a dialogue with the government, many of the signatories believe that an expression by the public is necessary. There is disagreement, but that does not mean that the Accord is broken," he added, referring to the position of the National Unity.

He admitted that there is disagreement over how to implement the Accord and showed that one of the divergent positions was the one held by the National Unity, which rejects social mobilization and advocates negotiation. Molina added: "None of the signatories of the Accord rejects negotiation. What happens is this: After 4 months of vain attempts by the coordinators to talk with the government, the rest of the signatories believe that it is perfectly natural for the citizens to express their discontent with the present situation."

He stated that since the Accord was created, signers have avoided setting a date for the return to democracy. He added that some of the signatories believe that "the sooner we return to democracy, the better," while others -- including the National Unity -- believe that the current period ends in 1989 and that democracy should come after that.

The meeting was attended by the leaders Pedro Correa (National Party); Javier Diaz (Republican Right); Enrique Silva Cimma and Luis Fernando Luengo (Radical Party); Carlos Briones and Hernan Vodanovic (Socialist Party); Patricio Aylwin and Eugenio Ortega (Christian Democrats); Rene Abeliuk, Mario Sharpe, and Arturo Venegas (Social Democrats); Luis Maira (Christian Left); Gaston Ureta (Liberal Party); Sergio Navarrete (Socialist Party, Mandujano faction); Andres Allamand (National Unity); and Ramon Silva Ulloa (Popular Socialist Union).

ARENAS, CANO COMMENT ON PATRIOTIC UNION PLANS

PA312224 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Report by Ricardo Canon -- recorded]

[Text] [Canon] After an arduous 9-hour trip, 3 hours by car and 6 hours by mule, we arrived in an isolated locality to the east of Cundinamarca Department to meet with Jacobo Arenas and Alfonso Cano, members of the FARC High Command. Jacobo Arenas, what is the next step following the results obtained by the Patriotic Union in the 9 March electoral process?

[Arenas] What follows is the work to be carried out by the Patriotic Union especially its representatives in municipal councils, departmental assemblies, and the Chamber and Senate of the Republic to present the Patriotic Union platform in these national deliberations. We called it platform to be conservative, but it is really a very broad program that addresses the most basic and important problems of Colombian society.

[Canon] Is this the appropriate moment to carry out the programs that you have established?

[Arenas] Any struggle to create a political space in Colombia faces enormous difficulties. However, what is important is that people understand our views; that they mobilize and struggle to carry them out.

[Canon] Alfonso Cano: There is a situation that is very compromising for the FARC: It is said that your organization promotes peasant movements currently taking place in various regions in the country. What do you have to say about this?

[Cano] It is absolutely not compromising for us. FARC is forced to be wherever the Colombian people are struggling or striving to achieve peace, obtain food, preserve life, and live in better conditions. Lately, the Colombian Army has been carrying out aggressive actions in peasant areas that do not agree with the bureaucratic Liberal and Conservative Parties, they have been militarily attacked. These peasants have not found any other way to defend their interests and lives than to struggle, protest, organize and mobilize themselves. This demanded the presence of the FARC, we support them.

[Canon] Jacobo Arenas: The temperature now stands at 3 degrees below zero. Do you think that your candidacy for the Patriotic Union has frozen?

[Arenas] I do not think so. I do not think so; I will contribute all I can to the movement to give more impetus to the current Patriotic Union candidate, Dr Jaime Pardo. I cannot be present in the campaign, because mechanisms of State Intelligence, and especially of the Army, are plotting to eliminate me in the same way they are eliminating many other people here in Colombia.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LOAN TO ECOPETROL -- The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol] yesterday confirmed that it had received an international loan for $108 million granted by a pool of Japanese banks. With these funds, Ecopetrol will finance new programs for the construction of pipelines as a complement to the successful oil exploration and exploitation programs. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 1 PA]

CABINET MINISTERS RESIGN TO ALLOW RESHUFFLE

PY010151 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The Presidency of the Republic this afternoon released the following communique:

After a meeting held at the Interior Ministry, the ministers of state tendered their resignations to the President of the Republic to give him more freedom for a possible reshuffling of his ministerial cabinet. This cabinet change could come about as a result of the new political stage that will begin at the end of the talks with political parties seeking an agreement. President Sanguinetti thanked the ministers and added that he will make a decision this week. Along with the communique, the Presidency also released the note signed by all the ministers. It reads:

At the end of the sessions seeking a national political understanding, the ministers who sign this note, and who have had the honor and satisfaction of cooperating with your administration from the very beginning of this government, want to present to you the resignations from our ministerial posts, in order to give you greater freedom to solve the political problem. The note adds: On presenting our resignations we are pleased to reaffirm our solidarity with your government's actions during this first year and express our gratitude for your attention to the problems of our respective ministries and for the cordial treatment given to us. The note concludes: We extend our cordial greetings to you, Mister President. The note is signed by all ministers.

We reiterate that President Sanguinetti, having the resignations in his hands, will proceed to reshuffle his ministerial cabinet. It is also appropriate to recall that the collective resignations of ministers was presented to facilitate the president's work.

President Sanguinetti will address the nation to report on the scope of the agreement reached with the opposition parties. He will probably also refer to the reorganization of the ministerial cabinet.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT RECEIVES AMBASSADORS -- During a ceremory at Government House yesterday President Julio Maria Sanguinetti received the credentials of new Japanese Ambassador Ryoko Akanatsu, Egyptian Ambassador Faruq Muhammad Barakah, and Netherlands Ambassador Eldred Gabriel Maduro. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p 5 PY]

HEPATITIS OUTBREAK -- Public Health Minister Dr Raul Ugarte has revealed to Radio Carve that 39 cases of hepatitis have been reported in San Jacinto, Canelones Department. [Excerpt] [Montevideo Radio Carve 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86 PY]

NEW AMBASSADORS NAMED -- On March 18 Uruguayan Ambassador to Spain Luis Hierro Gambardella was appointed as concurrent ambassador to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. Roberto Vivo was appointed as concurrent ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 5 PY]

PDP'S CHANG MARIN ON U.S. ENVOY'S APPOINTMENT

PA311628 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Mar 86 p 2 A

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] In the opinion of the People's Party [PdP], President Eric Arturo Delvalle's acceptance of new U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis, despite his recent interference in Panama's internal affairs, demonstrates weakness in response to U.S. pressures.

The Panamanian communist party's position was expressed during an interview granted to LA PRENSA on the arrival in Panama of the new ambassador, who will succeed outgoing Everett Briggs; Davis' acceptance was repudiated due to statements he made a few weeks ago regarding Panamanian policies.

Professor Carlos Francisco Chang Marin, a member of the party and director of the newspaper UNIDAD, pointed out that the Panamanian Government's weakness was demonstrated with the approval of three reform laws -- labor, agricultural, and industrial -- a line that the communists have described as an increasingly deep concession to the United States which, in the party's opinion, poses a dangerous risk of reversing the progress made during the past few years, in terms of national sovereignty.

Chang Marin said that although the State Department denied that Davis made the statements that LA PRENSA and other newspapers published, we know that Davis did make them because his actions are the result of the U.S. policy that its ambassadors must carry out as true proconsuls in Latin America.

"Davis' presence is the presence of Reagan's neoglobalist policy," the veteran communist said, basing his statements on the fact that the United States believes in its role of international gendarme, and that throughout the world it must carry out offensive actions. Davis is well known to Chang Marin and the PdP because when he was on good terms with Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner; he served as a minister without portfolio, according to the dictator himself. "I do not know if Davis will have a portfolio here or not," Chang Marin commented, adding that he foresees that the Panamanian people will reject Davis because he received the president's approval but not the people's.

The new U.S. ambassador, according to Chang Marin, knowing that the people did not like his interference, will now try to "win Panama's love" with politics and statements that carry within them a certain hypocrisy. Nevertheless, he said that even more dangerous are Davis' people (alluding to U.S. allies), influential people in the Central American region to which the Panamanians belong.

Analyzing the scope of his presence on the isthmus, he warned that Davis' being in Panama is another step in the preparation of a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua. From another angle, and weighing the crisis the country is experiencing, Chang Marin said that Davis is a specialist in economic destabilization, and as far as he knew he will have room to carry out his plans in Panama.

In regard to his party's position now that Davis has arrived in Panama, Chang Marin said that Davis' presence cannot be prevented due to orders from the current government. Nevertheless, the Panamanian communists will be alert to his work, which is supposed to be a continuation of Briggs' work.

He recalled that it was the PdP that forced the outgoing ambassador to increase U.S. scholarships to Panamanian youths since the socialist countries were giving large numbers. In this regard, he said, it is more productive to have a war of international scholarships between the two sides than a conflict as in Nicaragua. We would never be opposed to this, he said.

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ ON CONTADORA, U.S. AID TO CONTRAS

PA010350 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The United States aid [words indistinct] the rebel groups struggling against the regime in Nicaragua cannot be discussed at the next Contadora Group meeting, it was stated by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez.

How can the Nicaragua-United States situation be discussed by Contadora when the United States is not present? Foreign Minister Gutierrez asked. He confirmed that it has been the norm in the Contadora process to discuss matters only if the interested parties are present. That is why the situation could not possibly be discussed at the next Contadora Group meeting, Foreign Minister Gutierrez reasserted.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez believes that the agenda for the upcoming Contadora Group meeting basically includes the peace document, the implementation of the Caraballeda declaration, and discussion of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border problem.

Nevertheless, Gutierrez asserted that he still does not know for certain what topics are included on the agenda for the meeting, which will take place on Contadora Island later this week. Gutierrez thinks that the U.S. Senate's approval of $100 million for the contras does not hinder the Contadora process because the United States wants the Sandinist regime to hold a dialogue with the opposition and implement the provisions of the Caraballeda declaration; if this is fulfilled, the United States' demand would be met.

SANDINIST SHELLS EXPLODE IN BORDER AREA 16 MARCH

PA311910 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1828 GMT 31 Mar 86

[By Wilfredo Chacon S.]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Civil Guard director Oscar Vidal reported today that several shells from an .82 caliber mortar, used by the Sandinists fighting the guerrillas in Nicaragua, exploded in Costa Rican territory.

The incident took place on 16 March at the border post known as Boca del Sarapiqui, which takes its name from one of the Costa Rican rivers that flow to the San Juan River on the border.

Vidal accompanied his report to the Foreign Ministry with "considerable evidence" collected in the area where the incident took place.

After 2 weeks of investigations and inspections, the police concluded that on Sunday, 16 March, there were clashes between Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) forces under Commander Eden Pastora and Sandinist militiamen, very close to the border between the two countries.

Meanwhile, approximately 40 km west of the bombarded area there was another incident, when an unidentified airplane "coming from Nicaragua" entered Costa Rica airspace.

The lead-colored airplane flew over several border areas for more than half an hour, and the director of the police force reported that fire was not opened on it until it lowered its altitude because the policemen's weapons "are short-ranged and ineffective against warplanes."

Shots were fired at the invading plane from the Boca de San Carlos border post, another tributary of the San Juan River.

These were the only incidents that interrupted the normal situation on the border with Nicaragua during Holy Week, in a region authorities report as "free of contras," thanks to the control and permanent vigilance the police maintain "in fulfillment of the government's proclaimed neutrality."

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES REAGAN REGIONAL POLICY

PA301228 San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish 21-27 Mar 86 p 2

["Our Position" column: "It Is Possible To Save Central America"]

[Text] One does not have to be too sharp to realize that the noise President Reagan is making internationally to have the U.S. Congress approve the delivery of $100 million, which he claims he needs to topple the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua, has all the characteristics of a theater play. However, behind the curtains of this play there is the making of a big tragedy for Central America that could affect the entire Latin American continent. Who could imagine that President Reagan and the big monopolies backing him really have to wage a parliamentary battle to secure $100 million? How difficult can it be for a government that has at its disposal $250 billion every year for military expenditures to take $100 million from any of the garbage dumps of the arms factories he controls?

It is probable that Mr Reagan is making all that noise for the following reasons: to get the U.S. people used to the idea that their government is set on intervening in Nicaragua, to convince the people of the world that Nicaragua has become a threat to the United States because it has fallen into the hands of the Soviet Union and Cuba, and to give the world the impression that his government does not want to invade Nicaragua directly and prefers to turn several thousand anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionaries into his soldiers.

Let us see what the truth is.

Mr Reagan has said clearly that Cuba has become a military power that is threatening U.S. hegemony over the entire continent and over the two big oceans. But Reagan himself has said that Cuba is not alone, because it has a mutual defense pact with the Soviet Union. On the basis of this dangerous opinion, Reagan and his military and political advisers have decided to take over Central America to turn it into a powerful military base confronting Cuba. However, Reagan has stumbled on an obstacle in his effort to accomplish his objective: Nicaragua. That small country, according to what Reagan charges in his propaganda full of lies, has been turned by the Soviet Union and Cuba in a military power that is several times more powerful than Mexico.

What do do? If Reagan invades Nicaragua with his Army, he would have to face Cuba, the Central American people, and several Latin American countries that have already made their position known. The Caribbean area and part of Latin America would be set on fire. This fire, of course, could easily become a world war. Summarizing: Setting the Caribbean on fire would represent a giant conflict that could never end in victory for the United States. Mr Reagan's advisers know this very well, and this is the reason for the hesitation and the howling of the U.S. President in the face of the majority of the U.S. representatives' refusal to give their blessing to a suicidal policy that could lead to a nuclear war.

Senator Jim Sasser, during a speech to oppose Mr Reagan's thesis, has said, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the following: "As the father of a 17 year-old boy I tell you, Mr President, let us not sink in that swamp. We have done so in the past. The same newspaper notes: "Many Democratic leaders are affirming that the U.S. people fear that an increase of the violence in Central America could lead to the sending of young North Americans to the battlefront."

On Wednesday of this week, LA NACION published a CIA message from Washington making known Reagan's plan. The anti-Sandinist forces -- probably fattened by mercenaries -- at training camps in Honduras under the direction of Green Beret commanders, will be turned into a modern army at the service of the United States. There is also talk of a large amount of arms to be supplied to these forces. Everything is being said clearly, with absolute cynicism. The conclusion is clear: Mr Reagan's tactic consists in making the world believe that it is not the U.S. Army that is invading Nicaragua, but an army of Nicaraguans "struggling for sovereignty in their fatherland."

What is President Reagan proposing as a way out of this dangerous conflict? An absurdity, that the Sandinist government talk with the traitors and make concessions under the threat of a U.S. invasion. Is it not logical that the talks be held with Mr Reagan who is the one who is invading, making use of phony pretexts? The truth is that Reagan does not want to negotiate. What he needs to do is to occupy Central America, beginning with Nicaragua. We Costa Ricans must not let ourselves be fooled because together with Nicaragua we are on the brink of the worst tragedy in our history.

On 30 June 1982 Fidel Castro had a meeting with former President Jose Figueres in Havana. Comrade Manuel Mora was present at that meeting. We have in front of us a memorandum summarizing the event. The following is a text of the second clause of the memorandum:

"Regarding revolutionary processes in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and in answer to a specific question from former President Figueres, Fidel said that he is absolutely convinced that both Nicaragua and El Salvador want a negotiated arrangement with the United States, but the United States has created and continues to create obstacles for such an arrangement. Nicaragua is not armed because of whims, or because it plans to attack neighboring countries as it has been charged, while it is known that this is not true. Nicaragua has been forced to arm itself because there are serious invasion and intervention threats. The CIA has not hidden the fact that it is training former Somozist guards in Honduras and in the United States. The Armies of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador are, without doubt, a potential threat to Nicaragua. It is evident that Nicaragua would benefit from lowering its military expenditures to be able to better develop its economy. The Nicaraguan Government leaders have publicly and specifically told the U.S. Government that if it guarantees, with the adoption of specific measures, that the intervention and invasion plans are no longer in effect, Nicaragua could think about investing in the production sector what it now has to invest in arms and defensive measures."

We ask: Is it possible to save Central America and the Caribbean from a war? Yes, it is possible. Saving Central America from war means closing one of the doors through which a third world war is about to hit mankind. But salvation must be the result of realistic negotiations carried out between the Caribbean region and the United States. In that negotiation, the people of the Caribbean, the people of Central America, must secure from the United States a serious and duly guaranteed commitment that their sovereignty will be absolutely respected and that it will recognize that the people of the area are the owners of whatever wealth nature put in their territory.

In exchange for this, the Caribbean people will give the United States whatever guara guarantees it may need to defend its security and sovereignty. If this negotiation takes place through the United Nations, then the big powers -- including the Soviet Union -- could participate and serve as guarantors. Some 3 years ago a group of Reagan's advisers considered this proposal as a good basis for discussion. Fidel Castro also found it good. Consequently, the road is open. Will Reagan prefer to destroy the people of this area, thus pushing his own country into a tragedy, rather than to try to befriend our people through negotiations in line with the historic situation we are living through?

BRIEFS

COLON DEVALUATION -- The colon devaluation decreed by the Central Bank yesterday will be the last one by the Monge Alvarez administration. As this station had announced last week, yesterday's devaluation amounted to 25 centimos. Now our currency is being sold at 54.70 colones per $1 for purchases and 54.95 colones per $1 for sales. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 Mar 86 PA]

HONDURAS

SANDINIST SOLDIERS MAY REMAIN IN TERRITORY

PA311709 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] As we have reported, the Honduran-Nicaraguan border area has been the scene of serious incidents during the last few days, during which Sandinists have either been killed or captured by the Honduran forces. Our station sent reporter Miriam Mercado to a place barely 8 km from Nicaraguan territory to report on developments at the border.

Colonel Danilo Carvajal Molina, commander of Task Force No 17, dispatched to Capire, in the border area, has reported that calm has returned to the frontier area. The military officer does not rule out the possibility that small Sandinist groups are still in this region. This is Mercado's first news report from the site of events.

[Begin recording] [Mercado] At this moment there is calm in the eastern area of El Paraiso and more specifically in Capire. This is confirmed by Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Carvajal Molina, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces' Task Force No 17.

[Carvajal] What I can say is that the situation is virtually under control. We have no major problems. Our mission is to reinforce the sector with Task Force No 17, as you well said. We state that everything is under control because we are detecting small EPS patrols. Most certainly, these must be soldiers who have gotten lost or are disorganized. We suppose that, in their disarray, most of them have left for their country.

[Mercado] Have the Sandinist troops suffered any casualties so far?

[Carvajal] Yes, definitely. I cannot say how many, but they have indeed suffered some casualties. You will have an opportunity to see some of them. We cannot give any figures because there are still some people in the thick areas of the Entre Rios mountain range, which is where the clashes have taken place. These clashes have been among patrols and have not involved any major battles, but there have been confrontations in which casualties have resulted.

[Mercado] How far is this troubled area of Capire from the border with Nicaragua, Colonel?

[Carvajal] (?Twelve) km away.

[Mercado] Thus far, what role has been played by the U.S. troops here? One can hear the fighting at this moment. I can hear mortars.

[Carvajal] These are not exactly mortars but only volleys fired by people who are in the area....

[Mercado, interrupting] What role has been played by the U.S. troops here?

[Carvajal] They are supporting us with transportation. The area has been reinforced by Task Force No 17 with support from the American forces.

[Mercado] Colonel, the peasant population claims that they are starving in this area of El Paraiso. What is the Armed Forces planning to do in this regard?

[Carvajal] We are already taking pertinent steps. We have scheduled a civic action program for tomorrow. We will bring medicine and doctors and will try to bring them food, too. because they are really facing a crisis.

[Mercado] In this way, Lt Col Molina, commander of Task Force No 17 located in the area of Capire, El Paraiso, confirms that the Armed Forces have begun taking food and medicine to peasants in the region. He has also confirmed that there is complete calm for the time being in that troubled area on the border with Nicaragua.
[end recording]

Bodies Shown to Reporters

PA311832 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Miriam Mercado report]

[Text] This is a report from Capire, El Paraiso, for Radio America.

The bodies of five EPS soldiers were shown by the Honduran Armed Forces on Thursday here in Capire, only 8 km from the border with Nicaragua. Approximately 80 reporters were brought to this area in eastern Honduras aboard 2 Chinook helicopters. The flight from Tegucigalpa to Capire lasted 1 hour.

The first things that could be seen as the two U.S. helicopters prepared to land were trenches, cannon trained on Nicaragua, and Honduran troops spread around the hills surrounding Capire. A few meters away from the place where they got off the helicopters, the reporters were able to see the bodies of five Sandinist soldiers, whose ages apparently ranged between 17 and 24 years, strewn among tree logs. A Honduran soldier said that the shots that were fired at them apparently came from AK-47 rifles, which the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and the Sandinists themselves carry. They [not further identified] were taken to Capire by helicopter from the Entre Rios mountain range, which is even closer to the Nicaraguan border, the Honduran soldier explained.

Moreover, Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Carvajal, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces' Task Force No 17, has approximately 900 Honduran soldiers under his command.

These soldiers were brought 4 days ago to watch over this part of the border with Nicaragua. According to Carvajal, the situation is under control, but he does not rule out the possibility that there are more Sandinist prisoners. [sentence as heard]

His estimate coincides with the armament that was seized from the EPS, which was shown to reporters here in Capire on Thursday. Shown to the press were 30 Soviet-made AK rifles which, logically, were carried by Nicaraguan soldiers, who were not shown to the local and international press. Carvajal added that he has issued instructions to bury in the mountain any other bodies found there and to respect the lives of Sandinist soldiers who surrender.

We reporters were also witness to the presence here in Capire of General John Galvin, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, headquartered in Panama. He arrived here in Capire on Thursday to check on the effectiveness of the training given by the North Americans to the Honduran military forces that are in this region.

Army Controls Border

PA311848 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1804 GMT 31 Mar 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Army reported today that it has absolute control of the eastern part of the country bordering with Nicaragua, after dislodging Sandinist contingents that had entered the country since 17 March.

Honduran Armed Forces spokesmen said that their troops have not suffered any casualties, but they did not specify the number of Sandinists killed or captured in clashes.

Colonel Danilo Carvajal Molina, chief of the Honduran Task Forces, said "approximately 1,200 Sandinists entered our territory. They withdrew, but some of them were left behind, and our main objective now is mopping up."

He explained to reporters that the Sandinists have not clashed [no han combatido] with "counterrevolutionary" forces in Honduran territory as has been insistently reported; he also denied reports that 900 Nicaraguan soldiers had been trapped by the rebels.

International press reports have put the number of EPS casualties at 350 to 700 dead, with hundreds of soldiers wounded. Nevertheless, anti-Sandinist spokesmen in Tegucigalpa, who have very actively publicized minor victories such as ambushes of patrols and vehicles in the rural areas of Nicaragua, have maintained total silence in response to reports that they have won an "enormous military victory."

Situation 'Normal'

PA310432 Paris AFP in Spanish 0159 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Military sources and area residents have assured AFP that no further clashes have been registered today in the border area with Nicaragua. On the contrary, everything seems to have returned to normal in the past few hours.

However, residents from the Capire area, some 220 km east of Tegucigalpa and 12 km from the border, have not yet returned to the area where, according to reports from Washington and from Tegucigalpa, a Sandinist incursion occurred last weekend.

Likewise, although the military sources have said that "the situation is virtually under control," those mobilized said that there are peasants missing in the area and that many of them have lost their property and livestock.

Moreover, an Army spokesman said yesterday that missing Sandinist patrols and forces have been found sporadically and that some of them have been able to flee in disarray to Nicaragua.

Carvajal on Sandinist Entry

PA311915 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] In San Francisco Capire, Colonel Danilo Carvajal said:

[Begin recording] [Carvajal] I am going to be very brief because to make a detailed account would take a long time here. You may recall that 19 March was the first day when you, perhaps, began to get the first reports. That was the day when -- how should I say it -- an Air Force helicopter was not downed, but hit. The helicopter had a mechanical malfunction. It took off from an area that is in the mountains, which are right here, but it fell here.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the name of it?

[Carvajal] It is the Entre Rios Mountain range. As you may see on the map, it is the Entre Rios mountain range. The helicopter was in the mountains. This was the... [changes thought] this was the indication that they [the Sandinists] were already inside [the country]. The rest of the information we obtained from messages that we intercepted from them. We have intercepted messages, and that is why we know the number of personnel who have entered the country.

As you may see, these arrows indicate the personnel who entered the country. By the information in the messages, we surmised the number of people, which is approximately 1,200, adding all that.

As you may see, we had a platoon of the 7th Battalion and a patrol of the 6th Battalion before. These numbers you see here refer to the units. You can see that we do not have a large quantity of personnel in the area. Fortunately, the area is very mountainous, and a small patrol can put a stop to a large number of their people. In addition, the jungle is so thick that communications become very difficult.

In the first place, we know that the counterrevolutionaries are giving them problems, and these areas that we are not controlling are areas where they [the contras] seek refuge. Well, it could be true that they [the Sandinists] were chasing them [the contras], but how many people could be involved in this pursuit? Let's suppose that 500, or how many could there be? But we know that more than 1,000 Sandinists entered the country because of the messages we intercepted, as I said before.

It is logical for you, but it is not militarily logical to have 1,000 plus men enter our country chasing [the contras] in mountains like that. Any smaller force could have done that. [end recording].

GOVERNMENT CAPACITY TO INFORM PUBLIC CRITICIZED

PA312013 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] After Holy Week and as Hondurans resume normal activities, we cannot begin to work without focusing our attention on the incidents that occurred during the days that should have been of spiritual retreat for all Catholics who listen to the words of Christ's vicar who resides at the Vatican.

While the Christian world was involved in its faith, Honduras' southeastern border was appearing on the teletype machines of the news agencies with the most alarming predictions of war of the eighties.

Nothing much was said in our country and much less was known about what was occurring. The first report about the armed confrontation, telling us that the Sandinist Army had entered Honduras, came from Washington, as has occurred on other occasions.

The government's silence prompted disgust and confusion. It does not seem logical or wise that Hondurans must receive first foreign versions and then that of our authorities. The official silence can be interpreted in many ways and almost every time results in doubts and distrust. The worst thing that can happen to any government is for it to lose credibility whether because it does not report correctly, because it does so late, or because it does not give full reports.

Anyway, the border incident was not artificial. It was real and serious. Best proof of it was offered by Commander Ortega himself, by admitting the casualties sustained by his Army, although he was careful not to admit that they had entered Honduras. This is an understandable tactic because, had he done so, he would have lost the support of certain countries that still believe that Nicaragua is the victim instead of Central America's threat.

The incident in the southeastern sector of the Honduran border -- which was reported throughout the world and commented on by foreign and even Honduran reporters who analyze national news -- may have many versions, interpretations, and consequences. But most Hondurans agree on the need to organize the information better for Hondurans, to whom the government owes respect, as well as for the foreign press, whose correspondents get irritated with vague statements and delayed reports. The information must be produced professionally without waiting for news agencies to give us their versions from Washington, Paris, London, or Moscow.

On this aspect of the information battle, an aspect we must emphasize now, we must say that Managua has understood it perfectly well and uses it very skillfully. The Sandinist regime is constantly mobilizing its roving ambassadors who are making daily visits, holding press conferences, and lobbying for support in places where common ambassadors cannot act.

Today's Nicaragua also has a network to disseminate news, which takes no break. With its dispatches, Managua reaches the world. With its powerful transmitters, it invades the hertzian waves of all neighboring countries. Its team of reporters is very competent and aggressive, and it joins the work of the Foreign Ministry which constantly seeks specific objectives.

On Wednesday night, Hondurans residing in the United States kept calling us on the telephone asking about the Honduran situation because U.S. television news was alarming and Nicaragua was using this opportunity to tear us to pieces.

Nora Astorga used the CBS channel for 30 minutes and dared to accuse the Honduran president of being a liar. No Honduran diplomat responded to Astorga, perhaps because he did not have any first-hand information.

The abuse of the Sandinist Army, which violated Honduran territory, instead of serving to show the arrogance and warlike attitude of the neighboring regime, is being used against Honduras and, unfortunately, certain Hondurans, incorrectly using freedom of thought, are making common cause with the Honduran enemy.

This situation would probably not have happened, or would have been less damaging, if the government had opportunely informed the people, giving all the news material which the national and international public have a right to know.

But we have been presented as invalids and dependents on someone else's news, which has its own interests and deficiencies when it stems from people, organizations, or governments that could not care less about Honduras' destiny.

The military and the central government must organize the information more effectively. This is not a criticism of the people involved with official reporting, but the operative mechanism that needs the guidance and approval of the decision-making authorities, which is what is known everywhere as executive capacity.

GOVERNMENT REFUTES MARCOS' ASYLUM REQUEST REPORTS

PA312256 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2221 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Press communique issued by the Foreign Secretariat Directorate of Information and Press in Tegucigalpa on 31 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the unfounded speculations circulating in the international media regarding an alleged request for asylum in Honduran by Ferdinand Marcos, former president of the Philippines, the government of the Republic, through the Foreign Affairs Secretariat, states that it has not received any request for, nor has it offered, asylum to the former president of the Philippines.

Therefore, the Honduran Government considers -- and has so told the Government of the Philippines through the proper diplomatic channels -- that reports concerning [Honduran] asylum for former President Marcos are completely false.

Tegucigalpa, 31 March

Directorate of Information and Press of the Foreign Secretariat.

DRUG TRAFFICKER FACES POSSIBLE EXTRADITION

PA311710 Paris AFP in Spanish 1620 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Alleged Honduran drug trafficker Ramon Mata Ballesteros, who escaped from Bogota's Model Jail 10 days ago, turned himself over to Honduran justice this morning.

Mata has a trial pending in Honduras for the murder of Mario and Mary Ferrari, husband and wife, who were murdered in Honduras in 1977.

The United States also wants Mata for his involvement in the murder of U.S. antinarcotics agent Camarena, which took place in Mexico in 1985.

Mata was captured in Colombia as a result of this charge approximately 3 months ago: Tegucigalpa and Washington both demanded his extradiction. Although Colombian justice decided to turn Mata over to Honduras, authorities in Tegucigalpa showed interest in having him extradited to the United States first.

Mata's attorney, Carlos Florenzana, protested the Honduran decision and argued that, according to the local Constitution and law, the accused should be tried in Honduras. Florenzana said this morning before Judge Rafael Medina of Tegucigalpa: "As a Honduran, Mata is entitled to be here and tried" in this country. Florenzana refused to explain how Mata entered Honduras.

Claims Innocence

PA010005 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2005 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Interview with Ramon Mata Ballesteros, alleged Honduran drug trafficker, by an unidentified Radio America reporter on 31 March at the 1st Criminal Court in Tegucigalpa -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Tell me Mata, what is your responsibility in Camarena's death?

[Mata] None.

[Question] What about the accusations against you from the United States?

[Mata] The same, none. I am innocent.

[Question] And in the case of the Ferraris?

[Mata] I am also innocent.

[Announcer] These were statements by Ramon Mata at the moment he was being taken to prison in the La Mora sector. Mata also said that when he left Colombia he went to Belize. He did not mention at what point he came into Honduras; he said only that he was in Belize. When asked if it were true he paid $1 million to the prison's governor in Colombia to get him out, Mata absolutely denied this.

[Question] How long have you been out of the country?

[Mata] More than 7 years.

[Question] We would like you to tell our listeners about your escape from Colombia?

[Mata] I was unsure of my rights in Colombia, and I did not have a lawyer. This forced me to do what I did to be able to return to my country.

[Question] Why did you decide to come to honduras, and when did you decide this?

[Mata] I arrived at 0100 this morning.

[Question] How? By air or by land?

[Mata] By land.

[Question] Do you have a police record here for breaking the law?

[Mata] No.

[Question] What is your opinion of the Honduran authorities?

[Mata] I pray to God that they give me justice, because I am also innocent in the Ferrari case.

[Question] Why did you come to Honduras?

[Mata] Because it is my country.

[Question] Do you think you will be extradited?

[Mata] I doubt it.

[Question] Why?

[Mata] Because the Honduran Constitution does not permit this, and because I am innocent of the things of which I am accused.

May Remain for Trial

PA010139 Paris AFP in Spanish 0050 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Ramon Mata Ballesteros, the Honduran drug trafficker who is being demanded by U.S. and Colombian courts, might not be extradited, it was revealed today by Honduran Attorney General Ruben Zepeda.

Forty-one-year-old Mata Ballesteros, who escaped from one of the "most secure" prisons in Bogota 2 weeks ago, today surprisingly turned himself in to Honduran authorities, announcing that he wants to be tried in his country of origin.

Mata Ballesteros' request was supported, in principle, by Attorney General Ruben Zepeda, who said that -- regardless of other countries' demands -- the drug trafficker "must be tried by Honduran courts."

Zepeda said it was "a mistake" that the former government of Roberto Suazo Cordova decided not to try Mata in a Honduran court, giving priority to the U.S. courts' demands.

Mata is accused of killing an Argentine couple in Honduras in 1977, while the United States links him with the murder of DEA agent Enrique Camerena which occurred last year in Mexico.

While stressing that Mata should have been extradited to Honduras last year when he was captured in Cartagena, Colombia, Zepeda said "that the executive branch only enforces the law and has no other purviews, except those granted by the law."

In any case, Zepeda announced that the Honduran Attorney general's office will issue an official communique on this case within the next 48 hours at the request of the Foreign Secretariat, which will in turn report the ruling to the Supreme Court of Justice in Colombia.

Mata Ballesteros, whose unexplainable escape from the Model Jail in mid-March provoked a commotion within the country's penitentiary, is also accused of various murders in Colombia.

Nevertheless, Zepeda warned that the Colombian courts must now limit their actions to presenting and proving the charges they have against Mata so that the Honduran courts can issue a ruling, "because he is completely under our jurisdiction."

During a press conference with the Honduran press today, Mata Ballesteros declared himself "innocent" of all the charges against him here and abroad and stated that he escaped from the Colombian jails "because there is no security for me (there)."

The drug trafficker also said he surrendered to the Honduran authorities "because this is my homeland" and asserted that he entered the country at dawn on Monday from Guatemala. Nevertheless, other unofficial versions stated that Mata Ballesteros arrived in Honduras on 22 March.

Attorney General Zepeda also said the fact that Mata voluntarily turned himself in to Honduran authorities "will be an extenuating circumstance at the time of the trial."

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZURE - Narcotics agents from the Department of National Investigation seized cocaine and marijuana worth 2 million lempiras in a downtown hotel in Tegucigalpa. The merchandise belonged to a Costa Rican citizen who registered at the Santa Eduviges Hotel under the name of John Connowell on 28 May 1985, according to hotel clerk Berta Nunez. That same day he disappeared, the clerk said. His two bags remained in a corner of the room assigned to him until last week when Ms Nunez decided to move the bags to the hotel's storeroom. Neither she nor another hotel employee was able to lift them. In the presence of the hotel owner, Jose Rene Rivera, they tore them open and discovered cocaine and marijuana. The authorities were called in and they seized the drugs. [Summary] [Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Mar 86 PA]

NICARAGUA

REAGAN CHARGES ON SANDINIST OFFENSIVE 'REJECTED'

PA281337 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1209 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has rejected U.S. President Ronald Reagan's charges about carrying out a military offensive in Honduran territory. According to Reagan, that alleged Nicaraguan military action against Honduran territory is a lesson for the U.S. congressmen who have refused to support his request for $100 million for the counterrevolutionary bands that he has created, encourages, and equips.

In rejecting Reagan's version, the Nicaraguan Government admits that the counterrevolutionaries have been pursued in the country's northern border region, driving them back to their place of origin, Honduras.

That is the only offensive of our Sandinist Army, a Presidency spokesman said, adding that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has been in telephone contact with the Honduran authorities in the last few days in regard to the false and dangerous accusations by the White House. Ortega invited his Honduran counterpart, Jose Azcona Hoyo, to create a joint vigilance commission on the common border to prevent any type of friction in view of the well-known presence of the former Somozist guardsmen on the other side of the border. In Tegucigalpa Lisandro Quezada, Presidency press secretary, said that he has information that what took place on the border with Nicaragua was not a Nicaraguan offensive but an incident during the Sandinist troops' pursuit of the counterrevolutionary bands and that it has been clarified. This statement is a new denial of the insistent denunciations and accusations by the U.S. President against the Nicaraguan Government within his constant campaign to make the Managua government appear to be an invader and thus justify his pressure on the Republican and Democratic senators and representatives who are undecided or who oppose an increase in the Reagan administration's armed intervention in Central America and more specifically in Nicaragua.

The revolutionary leaders of our country have said that if the announced direct intervention by the U.S. Marines takes place, all of Central America will be set on fire and will be turned into a new Vietnam for the North Americans.

Even the U.S. diplomats in Honduras are denying the statements of the White House and its occupant. While in Washington State Department official Charles Redman told the journalists of the transnational agencies that the Honduran Army operations to expel Sandinist military units that violated Honduran territory were under way, in Tegucigalpa a representative of the U.S. Embassy contradicted the statement. Theodore Wilkinson, political counselor in the Honduran capital, said that the border region between Honduras and Nicaragua is back to normal. Roberto Suazo, adviser of the Foreign Secretariat of the Jose Azcona Hoyo government, said that after slight problems, the situation in the region is getting back to normal with the presence of Honduran troops on the border. Therefore, there is no dangerous Sandinist offensive against Honduran territory as warmongering U.S. President Ronald Reagan claimed yesterday in New Orleans. His own diplomats are refuting him.

'MILITARY SOURCES' ADMIT BORDER INCURSION

PA301354 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0524 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Managua, 30 Mar (REUTER) -- Nicaraguan forces crossed the Honduran border this week in order to attack rebel bases and thwart an important guerrilla offensive, military sources said in Managua. The sources reported yesterday that large contingents of counterrevolutionaries established in Honduras were planning to carry out a coordinated attack against Nicaragua beginning on 17 March from three points along the border.

A military source explained that on Saturday [not further clarified] the Sandinist forces entered the border area in order to hinder the communication and supply lines of the contra guerrillas -- which receive aid from Washington in their plans to oust the Sandinist government -- through the destruction of their command center. The source, which made the statements on the condition that his identity would not be disclosed, said that when the Managua authorities decided to launch the offensive, over 1,500 rebels had already surreptitiously entered Nicaraguan territory. "The plan was to crush the core of the operation to prevent them (the rebels) from coordinating," the source said, while pointing out that the operation had been successful.

President Daniel Ortega said on Friday that the Sandinists launched a defensive incursion in "border areas."

Another military source said that the operation was carried out by an attack battalion that included approximately 600 men. The U.S. Government, which defined the offensive as an invasion, calculated that the Sandinist force was made up of approximately 1,500 men. The sources said that the troops left Honduran territory on Tuesday but added that two Sandinist soldiers were captured by the Honduran authorities.

WHEELOCK TO HEAD FSLN DELEGATION TO BCP CONGRESS

PA010330 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Mar 86 p 1

[Communique entitled "Wheelock To Attend Communist Party Congress in Bulgaria," issued by the Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate in Managua on 30 March]

[Text] The Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate reports that Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, member of the FSLN National Directorate, and minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, heads the FSLN delegation that will attend the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of Bulgaria [BCP] which will be held on 2-5 April of this year. The delegation will also include Sandinist Assembly members Marcos Valle Martinez and Alejandro Guevara Silva.

Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate

Managua, 30 March 1986

"1986: 25 Years Later, All Arms Against Aggression."

CONSTRUCTION MINISTER ON DAMAGE BY CONTRAS

PA310237 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] With their criminal actions in the northern region, the mercenary forces have caused losses totailing almost 7 billion cordovas in the construction sector. Construction Minister Mauricio Valenzuela reported that the contras have destroyed 180 pieces of equipment, 137 of which were heavy equipment and the remainder light and transportation equipment. He added that some facilities, bridges, and other installations have been destroyed or damaged.

In summarizing the losses, Valenzuela said that so far 70 workers, experts, and engineers have fallen in various contra ambushes. Commander Valenzuela also urged workers to redouble their efforts in order to meet established goals and to increase discipline and productivity.

CONTRA CHIEFTAINS WORRIED ABOUT AIDS

PA281533 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1241 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The counterrevolutionary chieftains are worried over the spread of AIDS. The concern over the effect of AIDS detected among the U.S. soldiers stationed in Honduras has reached the counterrevolutionary chieftains, the Mexico City newspaper EL DIA reported.

The newspaper published a letter sent by the traitor Eden Pastora of ARDE to Brooklyn Rivera of Misurasata [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity] in which the former points out several recommendations on the dangers of AIDS, which was brought into the area by the Yankee troops.

Pastora encloses in his letter to Rivera a list of preventive measures prepared by the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica. In his letter, Pastora says that his friends -- the Americans -- are very worried over the spread of AIDS and also points out that they are collecting information on the cases that have been confirmed in the area, particularly among drug addicts and homosexuals.

PSN LEADER VIEWS HONDURAN BORDER SITUATION

PA310340 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] In an interview for this newscast, Luis Sanchez Sancho, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN], said that the current political and military situation in the country demands that all Nicaraguans close ranks in defense of our territorial integrity. Sanchez Sancho said that the United States is increasingly radicalizing its aggression against our country and that therefore the Contadora Group and its Support Group, as well as other international organizations, should step up their political efforts in order to counter the interventionist plans in Central America. Here is the statement made by PSN leader Sanchez Sancho:

[Begin recording] We have been following these developments with great concern, as they have occurred simultaneously with several situations that we believe did not happen by coincidence: for instance, the approval by the U.S. Senate last Thursday of the $100 million requested by Reagan for the contras together with the recent situation on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, the intensification of counterrevolutionary actions, and the counteroffensive blows dealt by the Sandinist People's Army, which were followed by U.S. and Honduran charges of an alleged incursion of Nicaraguan troops in Honduran territory. We view this as a more serious involvement of the U.S. Government in a conflict that is becoming more militarized and expanding, and which seems to minimize the possibilities of finding political, peaceful, and negotiated solutions for the red-hot Central American conflict.

We believe that as the president of the Republic said at a press conference on Friday, it is time for the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group to become more politically involved in this situation, particularly through the creation of a verification and control commission that will determine the real situation on the border, and by mediating in order to prevent the situation from becoming even worse. I believe the situation is very delicate, that the U.S. strategy shows a growing radicalization, and that President Reagan and the reactionary and warmongering circles surrounding him are apparently determined to take the situation to levels of total confrontation. This should be a call to all Nicaraguans to close ranks in defense of our national sovereignty and our territorial integrity, and of our right to self-determination, independently of the political or ideological differences we may have regarding our domestic affairs. [end recording]

COMMENTARY ON IDB MEETING, UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS

PA311534 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The 27th IDB meeting concluded its deliberations with more problems than achievements and had no solutions for the vital aspect of the Latin American foreign debt. The debt topic was the most discussed in the meeting and it was the unanimous conclusion that this problem is becoming an increasingly heavy burden and is also a destabilizing factor.

The obstructing work of the United States was noticed. The U.S. representatives disagreed with the petitions of Latin American nations for the IDB to make changes in its structures and begin playing the role that it should truly play in the problem of the foreign debt.

The Latin American and Caribbean countries had united positions in various aspects of the discussions, which displeased the U.S. delegation and other delegations of Western industrialized nations. The Latin American representatives clearly stated that they are greatly upset about the treatment that developed capitalist countries have so far given to the problem of the foreign debt, which results in the stagnation of economies and in social conflicts.

A sign of the selfishness that characterizes the United States was the position of its representatives at the IDB meeting. These representatives uselessly tried to change the voting system within the organization. The White House was trying to eliminate the possibility that a majority of Latin American countries could influence the IDB agreements to the detriment of U.S. interests. To Washington, it is essential that international economic organizations be under its control to use them as a lever of extortion and blackmail against independent governments.

The ultimatum of the U.S. delegates at the meeting was within this framework. They said that their country could stop granting funds to the IDB unless the Latin Americans submit to Washington's orders.

Throughout the sessions there were many who favored the IDB's agreeing to deliver additional funds for development and advocating that the burden of the foreign debt be shared between the debtors and the rich creditors. For the United States, it was enough to tell its representatives to regret the consequences of the foreign debt without telling them to propose emergency measures aimed at arriving at real solutions to this negative problem.

The U.S. praise for the hackneyed Baker Plan found no echo in the Latin American delegates, who, in some cases, pointed to the many deficiencies of the project, which Ronald Reagan's government presented as an alleged panacea. Now that the IDB meeting is part of the past, to the observers it was explicit that its sessions were unable to objectively respond to the economic needs of Latin America.

SELA'S ALEGRETT: BAKER PLAN RESTRICTS ECONOMIES

PA310420 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Sebastian Alegrett, SELA executive secretary, has reiterated that it is most important to strengthen Latin America's autonomy to resolve its economic problems without supervisors, and to start on the road to development. Alegrett said at a news conference in Havana that the Baker Plan does not resolve Latin America's foreign debt problem because of the limited resources it offers and, especially, because it restricts the economy of the countries of the region.

He said that South America is living through a period of much economic weakness because of the foreign debt pressure, short-term payments, the drop in the prices of raw materials, and protectionism imposed by the developed capitalist countries. Alegrett pointed to Cuba as an example of economic growth not subject to the norms imposed by the IMF.

RADIO COMMENTARY ON RECENT HAITIAN DEVELOPMENTS

PA311232 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Only a few weeks after the downfall of Jean-Claude Duvalier's dictatorship and his replacement by a civilian-military government council created following Washington's instructions, the Haitian masses seem to have lost all hopes in the new authorities and have resumed their struggle again, returning to the days that preceded the end of a dynasty that lasted almost 3 decades.

Multitudes, loudly demanding the resignation of Lieutenant General Henry Namphy, president of the Government Council, barricades, and bonfires were the predominant notes in Haiti during the past few days, showing that the Haitian people will not be stopped by imperialist maneuvers and that they demand absolute victory.

A few days ago Elliott Abrams, who is responsible for inter-American affairs at the U.S. State Department, bragged about the supposedly master blow of Washington with the replacement of Duvalier by a government molded according to the White House's prerequisites. However, the situation in Haiti again seems to be slipping away from the hands of the Yankee authorities, and at any time the popular struggle that was supposed to be curbed with the dictatorship's ouster could burst the artificial barriers created by the U.S. Government.

Recently 7,000 people went into the streets in Port-au-Prince to demand the installation of a civilian government and protest the appointment of a cabinet in which individuals formerly linked with repression occupy important positions.

The independent station Radio Metropol reported that similar demonstrations occurred in other Haitian cities.

In reality, Henri Namphy, who apparently considers himself omnipotent, brought the fire closer to the gunpowder when he decided to give ministerial positions to such discredited men as the former chief of Duvalier's army and the commander of the Port-au-Prince prison.

Another circumstance that added to the current government's crisis was the resignation of Justice Minister Gerard Gourgue, the only civilian in the Government Council, who said that the current authorities are incapable of finding solutions for the people's great needs.

Such factors and a popular struggle that is gaining force can seriously endanger the Yankee projects in Haiti and turn the domestic situation in one of the poorest countries on the planet into one truly uncontrollable for Washington. The fate of Henry Namphy and those who have supported Washington's maneuver can either be the same as Jean-Claude Duvalier or they can face popular justice.

REPORTAGE ON CANDIDATES IN MAY GENERAL ELECTION

MCN, Structure Party Join Forces

FL311830 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 4

[Excerpt] Yesterday the National Conciliation Movement [MCN] selected Jacobo Majutla as its presidential candidate during a convention held at San Lazaro's sports and cultural club. The selection is a result of an agreement signed between the MCN and the Structure Party headed by Andres Vanderhorst who attended the event. The Structure, which also has Majutla as its presidential candidate, and the MCN agreed to unite their nominees for next May's elections in an agreement signed during the convention and ratified by the delegates in attendance.

Party Nominations Reported

PA010133 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2055 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Santo Domingo, 31 Mar (DPA) -- The deadline for nominating candidates for May general elections in the Dominican Republic expires tonight and still the main opposition party and former President Joaquin Balaguer have not said who will be their vice presidential candidates. Balaguer said he would make the announcement today but refused to name possible candidates, saying only that he had "many names" to choose from Only four parties have submitted their lists with all their candidates to the Central Electoral Board, (JCE). These parties are: the Dominican Liberation Party, (PLD); the Dominican Communist Party, (PDC); the National Conciliation Movement, (MCN); and the Democratic Quisqueyan Party, (PQD). The ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party, [PRD] has registered only the names of its candidates for president and vice president. The PRD's presidential candidate is Jacobo Majluta, and businessman Nicolas Vargas is the candidate for vice president. The PRD's presidential candidate is Jacabo Majlura, and businessman Nicolas Vargas is the candidate for vice president. The PLD's presidential candidate is former President Juan Bosch, and Jose Joaquin Bido is the vice presidential candidate. Narciso Isa Conde is the PCD presidential candidate. The MCN is supporting the PRD's presidential and vice presidential candidates. Retired General Elias Wessin y Wessin is presidential candidate and Luis Antonio Vasquez is the vice presidential candidate for the PQD. The general elections in the Dominican Republic are slated for 16 May 1986.

Pena Gomez To Run in 1990

FL272312 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p 1, 12

[Excerpts] Yesterday Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said nobody should obstruct the path in his search for the Presidency of the Republic in 1990 and asserted that if the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] does not nominate him to the post, then the Institutional Bloc [Bloque Institucional] will. Pena Gomez, who is also national district representative [sindico] and PRD leader, said he is about to turn 50 and deserves that position within his party. After reiterating that after 16 August it will be his turn, Pena Gomez asserted: I believe no one should stand in my way, and this is why the PRD should nominate me. But if the PRD does not nominate me, I will go directly to the institutional bloc. The district representative and president of the Institutional Bloc said he is not interested in running for senator. The Senate has a disadvantage for me; first, I believe the country is tired of controversies, complaints, and the struggles of the PRD followers and, above all, of the quarrels between legislative and executive power officials. He added that he is certain that if he goes to the Senate there will be clashes between Jacobo Majutla and himself because There are big ideological differences between them, different ideas about politics, society, and life.

MURRAY DETAILS TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CUBA

FL312130 Bridgetown CANA in English 2054 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Gerogetown, Guyana, March 31, CANA -- Guyana is to buy U.S. 3.5 million dollars worth of Cuban goods and sell a similar amount of local commodities to Cuba this year under a new bilateral trade agreement, Trade Minister Winston Murray announced.

The barter deal was signed at the end of a recent meeting of the Guyana-Cuba joint commission in Havana.

Guyana will import mainly cement, tobacco, salt, and detergent and ship mainly rice, timber, and furniture to Havana.

The meeting also agreed on economic and technical co-operation arrangements, including a joint-venture agriculture project, Murray said at the weekend. This joint commission really represents a reaffirmation of the commitment of the two countries to intensify trade and technical co-operation, he said. Under a half million Canadian dollar revolving line of credit, also agreed on at the meeting, Guyana will also import certain high priority commodities from Cuba. Priority will be given to pharmaceuticals.

Discussions are to be held to determine what local commodities Cuba will receive as payment.

Murray, who headed the local delegation to the talks, said Guyana had expressed its intention to purchase on a commercial basis, subject to competitiveness and satisfactory quality, certain Cuban products, including spares for the sugar industry. In the area of economic co-operation, he said Cuba was very keen on a joint-venture project with Guyana for the production of beans. Part of the output of the proposed venture would be exported to Cuba, which currently imports U.S. 20 million dollars worth of beans annually.

Several aspects of technical co-operation were discussed at the meeting, including co-operation in the areas of glass manufacture, processed foods, tobacco cultivation, processing and handling, and health services.

Cuban technical assistance will also be forthcoming in ceramics and the production of yogurt and cheese.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS

FL282217 Bridgetown CANA in English 2019 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 28 CANA -- The new Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guyana Luis Enrique Figueroa Aguilar will present his credentials to vice president for social development, Viola Burnham, tomorrow, the government said.

The ambassador, a member of the Sandinist Assembly, served from July last year as his country's ambassador to Cuba and previously held various ministerial portfolios. He also served as president of Nicaragua's Central Bank. He is a graduate in economics and agriculture engineering.

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PANAMA'S ABADIA ON UPCOMING CONTADORA MEETING

PA011820 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The troubled situation at the Nicaraguan-Honduran border has hindered the work of the Contadora Group. However, an attempt will be made to end these conflicts at the meeting of area foreign ministers to be held in Panama City over the weekend. Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia made the following statements in this regard:

[Begin recording] [Abadia] What we will try to do now, if we can count on the political will of the Central American countries, is to arrive at a prompt solution for the signing, on a fixed date, of the Document on Peace and Cooperation. Once each country signs the document and assumes the responsibility to fulfill its part, we think there will be no problems, because all of these border conflicts are taken into account in the body of the document.

Therefore, once the document is signed, and once each country faithfully and firmly assumes its commitment, the country that does not abide by the peace document will have to face the consequences of whatever the world has to say regarding its actions.

[Unidentified reporter] In view of the situation at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, the position that there cannot be peace in Central America if no political solution is achieved in Nicaragua takes on strength....

[Abadia] We believe in an overall solution to the problem in Central America and feel that the solution to these bilateral border problems is envisaged in the peace document itself. If all of us sign the peace document and pledge to fulfill our part, these conflicts will immediately be supervised under the protection, mantle, and oversight of the Document for Peace and Cooperation itself. Therefore, once the peace document is signed it will not be necessary for us to be putting out occasional border fires. The document will envisage all of those problems. [end recording]

DE LA MADRID TO OPEN PARLIAMENTARY MEETING

FL020138 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2319 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 1 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Senate leader Antonio Riva Palacio said today that Mexico will never make unilateral decisions on the foreign debt, but conditions may require that such measures be taken.

The Senate leader said that Mexico will present two draft resolutions at the 75th Interparliamentary Union Conference which will be held in Mexico City on 7-12 April. The draft resolutions include the topics of disarmament, terrorism, elimination of regional conflicts, trade, financing, and the foreign debt.

The parliamentary leader said Mexico's position at the conference will be invariably opposed to any decisions that call for intervention or that make the people's sovereignty vulnerable.

Riva Palacio said Mexico's position on the Contadora Group [sentence as received]. The senate leader said Mexico will promote awareness among legislators to prevent unilateral action that would make the people's sovereignty vulnerable or remove self-determination. In reference to the foreign debt problem, the senator said Mexico will promote a political solution in accordance with its ability to pay and without sacrificing the well-being of the people. No country can sacrifice its people for the foreign debt, said Riva Palacio. That is why we propose international trade based on the ability to pay, and all we require is fair pricing of goods, continued the senator.

In reference to U.S. unilateral acts at the Mexican border to combat drug trafficking and supposed terrorist threats, Riva Palacio said that these bilateral problems can be solved by negotiation.

Riva Palacio stressed that Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid will give a speech inaugurating the 75th Interparliamentary Union Conference on 7 April at the Legislative Palace.

RIVER PLATE BASIN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET

PY220212 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2247 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Brasilia, 21 Mar (EFE) -- It was officially announced here today that the Argentine, Bolivian, Brazilian, Paraguayan and Uruguayan foreign ministers will meet in Buenos Aires on 3 and 4 April.

Uruguayan Jorge Talice, current president of the Inter-Governmental Coordinating Committee of the River Plate Basin, today announced the meeting of the ministers in Buenos Aires.

The agenda includes the study of development projects in the five countries that will help to stimulate the subregional Economic Integration Agreement.

The Buenos Aires meeting will replace the meeting that should have taken place at the end of last year in the Argentine city of Puerto Iguazu, which was suspended.

NICARAGUA-HONDURAS CLASH SEEN AS 'U.S. MANEUVER'

PY282222 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0225 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (EFE) -- The alleged confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua is "a U.S. maneuver designed to inflate the Central American situation," according to a high-ranking source in the Foreign Ministry. The newspaper TIEMPO ARGENTINO, which is usually well-informed, today published an article stating that "the Foreign Ministry has received information from the (Argentine) embassies in Honduras and Nicaragua that there had been no fighting between regular troops of these two countries."

Citing Foreign Ministry sources, TIEMPO ARGENTINO added: "The Nicaraguan Government even denied that there had been an incident while Honduras admitted that there had been an incident, to which it did not attach great significance and which it regarded as normal." TIEMPO ARGENTINO said Argentina considers the subject "very worrisome," but it believes the U.S. Government has "inflated" the subject to influence U.S. congressmen in the Nicaraguan contra aid vote.

Argentina, Peru, Brazil, and Uruguay are members of the Contadora Support Group. Thus, the Argentine Government maintains "smooth, frequent contacts" with the governments of these countries to analyze the Central American situation. In this respect, it was learned that "high-level" telephone contacts were maintained in recent hours between Buenos Aires and Managua. A conversation between Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and his Nicaraguan counterpart, Daniel Ortega, may have taken place. According to sources consulted by EFE, "Argentina does not believe it necessary to call an urgent meeting of Contadora Group, and its Support Group" but it will work intensively to have the meeting held on 5-6 April in Panama.

SUBMARINE ELUDES NAVY'S AERIAL SEARCHERS

PY020239 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0134 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Apr (DYN) -- The Navy today admitted that despite a search conducted by Argentine naval units, the submarine that was sighted on 26 March in the Exclusive Economic Zone by a Navy explorer plane could not be found.

A communique that was released tonight expands the information that had already been released regarding the incident, and it [words indistinct] that on that day at 1130 [1430 GMT] a Navy explorer plane "observed a submarine navigating semi-submerged at 38 degrees 35 minutes latitude south and 57 degrees 13 minutes longitude west," [words indistinct] adding that "when the plane overflew the vessel for identification purposes, it submerged." According to the information that has been released, "the sighting occurred in waters which, according to international agreements signed by Argentina, permit the free navigation of merchant vessels, warships and submarines." Therefore, "the fact that the submarine submerged is considered a guilty attitude." Finally, the communique indicates that "naval units and planes started a search in the area that concluded without positive results" and that "the initial sighting did not allow the identification of the submarine."

GOVERNMENT ISSUES DECREE ON TRANSPORT ASSETS

PY020015 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Apr 86 p 7

[Text] -- In an apparent reference to the stoppage threatened last week by CATAC freight fhaulers, the government issues a decree permitting the "temporary" seizure of assets belonging to transport companies in cases of emergency. According to decree 429, which was made public yesterday, earthquakes, epidemics, strikes, lockouts and other disturbances interrupting services with or without reasonable cause all justified the temporary confiscation provided that "public utility" and the need to ensure the "supply of essential services and continuity of normal services" was involved. Article six of the 17 article decree permits the defence ministry to order the intervention of the security forces if transport companies are unable to supply normal services. The decree, dated March 26, is signed by President Raul Alfonsin, ministers Antonio Troccoli (interior), German Lopez (defence), Juan Sourrouille (economy) and Roberto Tomasini (public works) and Economic Co-ordination Secretary Adolfo Canitrot.

In other strike-related news court clerks are to strike today and tomorrow in order to press for the application of a recent 25 percent hike for judges to all courtroom employees. The government is not prepared to offer more than five percent.

Meanwhile the labour front was overshadowed by the news that 13.1 percent of the population was unemployed or underemployed, the highest such figure since official statistics have been kept. Unemployment was 5.9 percent last October and underemployment 7.2 percent, the National Institute for Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) announced yesterday.

INDEC employment figures are based on surveys in Greater Buenos Aires, 19 provincial capitals and four other cities including Rosario. The surveys are held every April and October. Unemployment was actually down on last April's figure of 6.3 percent but well up on the previous October's figure of 4.5 percent. Unemployment was 3.9 percent when the present government started its term.

The upward trend for underemployment has been ininterrupted since April, 1984, when it was 5.4 percent. Underemployment is defined as less that 35 hours a week. Unemployment is 4.9 percent in Buenos Aires, below record levels, but above seven percent in Rosario, Cordoba, Mendoza and Tucuman (11.4 percent), with San Salvador de Jujuy having the highest figure (2.7 percent). San Luis, La Rioja, Salta and Santa Rosa showed the most favourable trends, probably the result of economic promotion schemes. Underemployment in Buenos Aires is 6.5 percent.

GOVERNMENT, CGT LEADERS REMAIN AT IMPASSE

Talks Invitation Withheld

PY292013 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The government will not not invite the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) to talks, said Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo yesterday, because of CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini's "insults" against members of the government in his speech at the CGT demonstration on Tuesday.

But Barrioneuvo said he was confident that CGT leaders would "reflect" and return to talks because "nobody gets a wage increase without negotiating it first," saying "dialogue is open". He said the government's refusal to invite the CGT to talks was not due to bitterness but rather because of Ubaldini's affronts to government figures including "the president of the nation himself." "There are many reasons why we cannot make a new invitation, and it's not because we're angry but rather out of respect for human dignity since we never insulted anybody," said the labour minister.

In Mar del Plata on Thursday, Barrionuevo said that the CGT "did not analyze the government's proposal" for negotiations and the "guaranteed social wage" -- which replaces minimum wage -- before staging last Tuesday's general strike.

Speaking at the opening of a housing project built by the local commercial workers' union, Barrionuevo said the government will announce the amount of the guaranteed social salary, which Barrionuevo announced in his March 19 speech, before April 10. "There will be no wage increase like those that the government has made up to now, by which (wage-earners) automatically receive an improvement without sitting down to negotiate," said Barrionuevo.

He called on union leaders to "reflect on this, since if they had begun negotiating on March 20, today we would be announcing concrete measures." He denied that officials are "betting on the CGT spending itself out" with repeated strikes and dodged saying how the government would respond to the CGT's threatened 36-hour general strike next month. He said that if the CGT rejects the call for talks, the government "will continue governing because such is its base of legitimacy."

April Stoppage Confirmed

PY020007 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Apr 86 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The General Confereration of Labour (CGT) announced yesterday that it will go ahead with its planned 36-hour general strike to protest government policies that run "contrary to social justice." Even as he ratified the strike, CGT secretary-general Saul Ubaldini seemed to leave the door open to heading it off, saying the CGT keeps "its most frank willingness to hold dialogue" and that, significantly, no date has been set for the stoppage.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli said at a press conference last night that the government remains "open to dialogue" and seeks a "civilized relation" with the unions. He said the government is willing to discuss incomes policies but said that if the CGT does not respond "in the next few days," the government will go ahead and set new incomes policies itself.

"Obviously, the workers are not going to go without a guaranteed salary, with a maximum and a minimum," said Troccoli. He admitted that storekeepers had violated the Austral plan's price freeze, but repeated his warning that they will be severely punished.

In Cordoba, Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo admitted to informal contacts with unidentified CGT leaders in a bid to reach agreement with the unions on the "guaranteed social wage" and head off the general strike.

Speaking after signing a jurisdictional agreement with the Cordoba labour secretariat, Barrionuevo said that "incomes policy will not be subject to partial negotiations" and said it was necessary to secure agreement on a strike-free year with the unions in return for a business promise not to raise prices. His technical undersecretary Armando Caro Figueroa said he was confident that an agreement with the CGT could be reached, calling the CGT's apparent confrontation with the government "verbiage." But both he and Barrionuevo said the Austral plan was not negotiable. Ubaldini, speaking to the press after a three-hour meeting of the CGT's executive council, denied that the labour hierarchy was increasingly faction-ridden by saying that all decisions were taken by unanimity.

Ubaldini, Iroccoli Comment

PY011530 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2322 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (TELAM) -- The General Confederation of Labor (CGT) has declared itself to be in permanent session. This measure has been taken to enforce the measures of the plan designed by the last CGT national plenary held in Corrientes. The measures include a 36-hour stoppage in April, on a date not yet established. In a communique read by CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini this afternoon at the CGT headquarters after an executive council meeting, the labor organization stated that it will continue to apply its plan until the government grants the just demands of the workers. The communique adds that the CGT executive council, through its secretary general, will always be willing to engage in dialogue providing the government is willing to provide full employment and reactivate the economy. The communique adds that the government proposals, which have so far disregarded social justice, seek to neutralize all the workers' achievements, as in the case of Law No. 14,250 which seeks to steadily reduce the country's productive capacity. Finally, the communique states: We will adopt the necessary measures to reactivate independent growth, according to our 26-point proposal that advocates decent salaries and retirement pensions.

TRADE SECRETARY SAYS HE RESIGNED 'VERBALLY'

PY012346 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Apr 86 p 9

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Domestic Trade Secretary Julio Mendez surprisingly denied having submitted a letter of resignation, although he admitted he resigned "verbally" three weeks ago for family reasons. His statement came amidst lively speculation as to his successor and yesterday domestic trade secretariat sources said Mendez' whole department was ready to resign en masse in solidarity. However he is not expected to finally depart until a successor has been found.

Meanwhile price adjustments continued to be in the news as Radical deputy Jesus Rodriguez said hikes in utility rates would be no higher than six percent, adding that devaluation would be much less than eight percent. The rates are thought to be up to 12 percent behind while the devaluation is not expected to exceed five percent given the worldwide fall of the dollar. Lower House budget committee chairman Rodriguez also expressed confidence in a rapid passage of this year's budget and denied share registration would be postponed. Economy ministry sources did not rule out the possibility of official announcements related to the Austral plan in the course of this week. President Raul Alfonsin is reported to have studied the proposed devaluation and public service price hikes after his return from Chascomus on Sunday night. Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille is to address the Radical National Committee today on "stability and growth."

BARTHELEMY ON TEACHERS ISSUE, MINEWORKER LEADER

PY011433 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Those who incite a hunger strike will be tried. Teacher union leaders will be arrested if their attitudes become harmful to third parties. The government will guarantee the personal safety of the teachers who start work. Daniel Ordonez, a mineworkers' union leader from the San Jose mining district, has gone underground. Investigations are being conducted to find out who supplied him the arms (?found) in a house in the city of Oruro.

These comments were made to Radio Panamericana by Interior, Migration and Justice Minister Fernando Barthelemy. The interior minister first spoke about the intransigence of the teacher union leaders and of the possibility that they may be arrested, and further commented that their attitudes may be harmful to third parties.

[Begin recording] Now, it is not true that teacher union leaders have been arrested or that an attempt has been made to arrest any of them. What we can say is that whenever these demonstrations, these protests, reach a point when they become harmful to third parties who are not involved in this problem, then we will indeed hold the teacher union leaders who organize this type of protest responsible for these actions. Furthermore, as we have said before, we will arrest them. [end recording]

Afterward, the interior minister emphasized that those who incite a hunger strike will be tried. The interior minister also referred to the government's guarantee to those teachers who return to work.

[Begin recording] As you know, a hunger strike is considered a crime under the penal code. Therefore, it is possible that those who incite a hunger strike and those who hold a hunger strike can be tried as established by the penal code. [end recording]

Later, Fernando Barthelemy reported that Daniel Ordonez, a mineworkers' union leader from San Jose mining district, has gone underground. The interior minister stated that there have been no more arrests in connection with the discovery of an arms cache at a house in the city of Oruro.

[Begin recording] Yes, the investigations are continuing. Union leader Daniel Ordonez has indeed gone underground. He in indeed wanted by the police for being directly involved in the possession of those arms.

In this case we can indeed talk of a person who has gone underground. We can say this about a union leader, although he resigned his position a few days ago for reasons that have absolutely nothing to do with this case. Internal struggles within his trade union forced him to resign. He has indeed gone underground, and we are looking for him. When we arrest him we will question him and place him at the disposal of the courts. [end recording]

These were comments that Interior, Migration, and Justice Minister Dr Fernando Barthelemy made exclusively for Radio Panamericana.

Miner Ordonez Rejects Charges

PY011435 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Daniel Ordonez, a mineworkers' leader from the San Jose mine in Oruro, has categorically denied the Interior Ministry's report that he delivered arms to two young men who also are named Ordonez and now are being held by the Interior Ministry.

Ordonez explained that 2 weeks ago he stopped being a union representative for the Oruro Miners. He made this statement exclusively to Radio Panamericana in Oruro. Ordonez pointed out that he did not deliver any arms to the young men being held by the Interior Ministry and denied that he is related to them.

He then referred to a note published in the Oruro newspapers in which the parents of those arrested clarified that they are not related to him. Ordonez added that he is currently working normally, drilling inside the mine, and that he is not involved in delivering any arms.

COB REPORTS GOVERNMENT 'REPRESSIVE ACTIONS'

PY311635 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2201 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 30 Mar (EFE) -- The Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), the biggest labor organization in the country, today reported that the government is carrying out repressive actions against leaders of teacher unions, warning that social upheaval can be unleashed in answer to the repression.

Over 75,000 urban and rural teachers have been on an indefinite general strike for 2 months to demand better salaries and are now threatening to fast, despite the government's warning that their jobs will be declared vacant if they do not show up for work by tomorrow.

In a document signed by Walter Delgadillo, Angel Zaballa, Jose Justiniano and others, the COB says that the government has raided the headquarters of several teacher unions and the houses of teacher union leaders.

The COB warns that "this attitude tends to resemble the repressive action carried out against the September 1985 labor mobilization that rejected the government's economic policies." The document adds that the "COB strongly rejects this new attack on people's freedom and reiterates its clear position in defense of education at all levels."

The COB document says that "the people, who are demanding a constitutional right based on the law and social justice, cannot be held responsible if a social upheaval is unleashed."

The COB points out that "the government will bear the responsibility if an effective solution is not found to the educational and social problems which have been worsened by the government's negative response to the calls for the urgent need to solve the conflict."

MNRV DEPUTY ARRESTED ON INTERIOR MINISTRY ORDERS

PY311427 Paris AFP in Spanish 1533 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 30 Mar (AFP) -- Deputy Tiburcio Mamani, of the Vanguard Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNRV), has been arrested by police agents who have violated his congressional immunity, MNRV head Carlos Serrate Reich reported today. According to Serrate, Deputy Mamani was forcibly taken from his residence to a police cell, where he is being held incommunicado by police agents who ignored the fact that they were dealing with a congressman.

Police sources have said that the case is in the hands of the Interior Ministry, which will shortly announce the reason for the arrest of Deputy Tiburcio Mamani. The MNRV has announced that it will be filing a formal protest over the arrest of its deputy from La Paz and at the same time filing a court action against those responsible for Mamani's arrest.

JOINT MANEUVERS WITH U.S. TO START 22 APRIL

PY010207 Paris AFP in Spanish 2255 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces General Raul Lopez Leyton reported here today that the Chapare Region, located in the center of Bolivia and the main area in which coca leaf and cocaine are produced, will be the scene of joint Bolivian-U.S. military maneuvers. The high-ranking officer also indicated that the U.S. military forces will bring sophisticated communications equipment, helicopters, launches and an unknown number of men from the Southern Command. The maneuvers, which have been scheduled to start on 22 April, have been named "Bol-USA II" Program.

Lopez Leyton also indicated that he has informed President Victor Paz Estenssoro, who is also captain general of the Armed Forces, about the phases and scope of the joint maneuvers. He added that specially trained troops from the Non-Commissioned Officers Training School, the Jungle Operations Training School, and the Condores School will take part in the program. Finally, he said that the appropriate request has been made to Congress asking that it approve the presence of foreign troops on national territory.

It has been recalled that the "Bol-USA II" maneuvers should have been carried out last year, but Congress refused authorization because it considered that the precepts of the defense of national sovereignty were being violated.

PRESIDENT SARNEY RECEIVES UN SECRETARY GENERAL

PY011404 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpt] President Jose Sarney has told UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Brazil will pay most of its debt to United Nations this year. Brazil has not paid its annual quota since (?1964) and now intends to pay 70 percent of the debt with money taken from the Itamaraty budget.

Yesterday Sarney and Perez de Cuellar met for nearly 3 hours at Planalto Palace and spent some time together after a luncheon at Alvorada Palace. The Brazilian President also told Perez de Cuellar that Brazil will be a candidate for the UN Security Council at the UN General Assembly in 1987.

View Falklands Conflict

PY012230 Paris AFP in Spanish 1706 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Brasilia, 1 Apr (AFP) -- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar recalled in Brasilia today that Great Britain still refuses to accept his good offices to negotiate the Malvinas Islands conflict with Argentina. Perez de Cuellar said that Great Britain maintains that attitude despite the four recommendations that the United Nations has approved on this matter. However, he explained, Argentina is willing to accept the good offices of the secretary general.

The topic of the South Atlantic was included in the message that President Jose Sarney sent today on the occasion of the assumption by Brazilian Ambassador Celso Antonio de Sousa e Silva of the presidency of the Geneva Disarmament Conference. Sarney stated, as he did before the General Assembly on 23 September 1985, that Brazil will make every possible effort to preserve the South Atlantic as an area of peace. Sarney stressed that this includes keeping that area out of the sphere of the arms race, free of nuclear weapons, and free of any type of involvement in conflicts in other areas.

Tomorrow, 2 April, is the fourth anniversary of the recovery of the Malvinas Islands by Argentina. The islands were occupied by Great Britain in 1833.

GREAT BRITAIN INTERESTED IN SELF-PROPELLED GUN

PY011637 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Mar 86 p 15

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- Great Britain is negotiating the purchase of a Brazilian-made self-propelled gun that will be officially presented to the British authorities at the British Defense Equipment Exhibition to be held at Aldershot next June.

The self-propelled gun, which is named the Mallet, was designed and manufactured by the Verolme Shipyard Company in Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro State. It is a 105-mm gun, which is standard for NATO. The presentation ceremony of the first foreign equipment ever exhibited at Aldershot will be attended by the British defense minister and the Brazilian defense minister, Leonidas Pires Goncalves.

The Mallet is a 45-ton vehicle intended to replace the U.S.-made M-109 in the armies of three European nations. The potential market is calculated at 3,000 units.

The vehicle was originally designed on the basis of the FM-70 gun under a trinational project undertaken by the FRG Rheinmetall, the British Vickers-Armstrong, and the Italian Oto Melara companies. The tracked Mallet prototpye is powered by a 1,000-hp Rolls Royce engine and is capable of speeds up to 50 km per hour. The vehicle has a hydropneumatic suspension system that was developed by the British Dunlop company and that is similar to that of the Osorio tank manufactured by Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.].

Its standardized equipment will include a computerized firing control system and systems for protecting the crew in nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare. All its components will be manufactured by Verolme in Brazil, except the gun barrel.

The estimated cost per unit is $4.5 million, that is, $1 million more than the vehicle developed by Engesa on the basis of its Osorio tank. The value of the potential market for this new product of the Brazilian military industry is estimated at $13.5 billion.

FORMER HAITIAN POLICE CHIEF IN PREVENTIVE CUSTODY

PY011428 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Former Haitian police chief Colonel Albert Pierre arrives today in Brasilia, where he will remain in preventive custody for 90 days at the Federal Police Headquarters. The Haitian Government has requested the Colonel's extradition, and the request will now be considered by the Federal Supreme Court.

USSR, EAST EUROPE TO PURCHASE FIBER OPTICS

PY311221 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Mar 86 p 15

[Text] The Brazilian Government through Itamaraty is negotiating with East European countries a 4-year export contract for 1,500 km of fiber optic components manufactured by Telebras (Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.) The sale of 400 kilometers of submarine fiber optic cable over a 2-year period to the Soviet Union has already been contracted by the ABC-TAL company. The fiber optic cable is more reliable and cheaper than copper telephone wire.

CUADRA ON U.S. OFFICIALS' REMARKS, REAGAN LETTER

PY020251 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Minister Secretary of Government Javier Cuadra, in referring to statements by some U.S. Government officials, has said that the truth is that those statements are rather unfortunate and that they hardly reflect a concrete U.S. policy. Minister Cuadra was asked about the contents of the letter that President Ronald Reagan sent to President Pinochet. He said it was an ordinary document within the framework of the correspondence exchanged by the two chiefs of state which is part of the link maintained by the two governments. Cuadra said that the contents of the letter are confidential and that any interpretation given by some sectors is nothing more than speculation and not based on the real content of the document.

Lastly, he was asked the government's opinion regarding the use of the money sent by the French Catholics to Chile and which, according to a press report, is used by opposition magazines instead of being used for its real purpose of social aid. Minister Cuadra said that the government learned about this charge and will investigate, because there have been many other cases in the past in which funds raised for pastoral purposes are used for exclusively political activities. The minister said that it is a problem that reflects one of the greatest conflicts currently existing in the Western Hemisphere, that is, the infiltration of political groups linked to Marxism in religious sectors.

MINERS' MARCH PROMPTS MILITARY DEPLOYMENT

PY020242 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2318 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 1 Apr (TELAM-ANSA) -- A considerable number of military forces equipped for combat were deployed today along the route that the miners from the Chuquicamata copper mine will follow if they decide to proceed tomorrow with a scheduled march between the mine and Calama. Regional Intendant Brigadier General Carlos Meirelles today prohibited the march on the grounds that he considers it a clearly political action with perfectly foreseeable consequences. The first and second labor unions of Chuquicamata, the largest open pit mine in the world, called upon the 8,000 workers to demonstrate against the government's refusal to grant the salary increases that the labor leaders requested some time ago.

The miners' march will take place simultaneously with a mass that will be held at the Calama cathedral, at the request of the dissident Association of Chilean Education Workers (AGECH), to mark the first anniversary of the kidnapping and murder of three communist leaders of this organization: its president, Manuel Guerrero, the sociologist Jose Manuel Parada, who was also a member of the Vicariate of Solidarity of the Catholic Church, and advertising expert Santiago Nattino Allende.

The prohibition to march and the heavy deployment of military troops backed by trucks and jeeps have worsened the tension throughout the area, especially in Calama because people fear a repetition of past confrontations between miners and police and military personnel which resulted in many injuries and arrests. Regional Intendant Meirelles said this afternoon that the organizers of the march will be held responsible for any casualties or damages.

FOREIGN MINISTER SCORES U.S. AID TO CONTRAS

PA012151 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (EFE) -- Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo said today that the U.S. Government's search for aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries is worrisome. The foreign minister said that the economic aid approved by the U.S. Senate last week "aggravates the tension in the region in spite of the efforts being made by the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) with Latin American support." Ramirez said: "In the past 2 months the tension has become worse, and we have not advanced substantially in what we want -- in the signing of the Contadora peace act." The Colombian minister said that "so long as the five Central American countries do not agree and have the political will that the situation demands, it will be impossible to secure peace."

Ramirez Ocampo cautioned that the work of the Latin American mediation organization has not concluded "because the internal reconciliation processes have not concluded either." He noted, however, that a commission for watching the Nicaragua-Costa Rican border has been created. The foreign minister said that the point of view of the four Contadora Group countries and of the Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay), which was expressed in Caraballeda, Venezuela, on 11 January, "has not found a response in the countries in conflict" and this aggravates the situation. He concluded by stating: "The Contadora peace act clearly establishes that the withdrawal of foreign military advisers is one of the conditions for putting an end to the conflict. We hope that this condition is met."

GOVERNMENT RELEASES GUERRILLA CASUALTY FIGURES

PA010411 Paris AFP in Spanish 0320 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Official sources quoted by the Bogota newspaper EL ESPACIO state that some 245 people were killed in Colombia during the first 3 months of 1985 [as received], as a result of extremist raids and armed clashes between the Army and the guerrillas. According to figures supplied by the state security agencies, in that period 96 guerrillas, 79 policemen, 39 Army troops, and 31 civilians, nearly all peasants, were killed. Most of the killings (138) occurred in the southeastern provinces of Cauca and Valle, where the most serious clashes took place between regular troops and the international America Battalion, made up of Colombians of the M-19, Peruvians of the Tupac Amaru group, and Ecuadoreans of the Alfaro Lives movement. The item added that several foreign insurgents were shot down in those clashes or taken prisoner in those regions.

ECOPETROL TO EXPAND OIL PROSPECTING PROGRAM

PA292100 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 8 A

[Excerpt] Alfredo Carvajal Sinisterra, president of Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise], has said that the drop in international petroleum prices will not affect oil prospecting programs in Colombia. On the contrary, he said, this year there will be a 33-percent increase in this activity and the $113-million investment in the 1986-1987 period. While 60 exploratory wells were drilled in 1985, 86 will be drilled in 1986 because commitments have been established through partnership contracts and they must be fulfilled, the Ecopetrol president said.

COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL ORGANIZATION DISSOLVED

PY011219 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The government has just reported the dissolution of the Sinacoso [National Social Communications System], the organization which controls the media. The Sinacoso, originally called the OCI [Central Information Office], was created in 1974 at the height of the dictatorship and became the institution which best represented the plans of the military government. The OCI managed and administered the press and television in favor of the de facto regime and the group which held power, thus creating what was popularly known as the restricted press: reporting which admitted to criticism.

Several times the OCI encouraged the closing of newspapers, magazines, and radios, eliminating any chance of discrepancy. For this reason, its continued existence during Fernando Belaunde Terry's regime, which restored full freedom of expression and returned the media to their legitimate owners, was absurd. Alan Garcia however, promised during his electoral campaign to dissolve the Sinacoso, saying that this organization had no place in a democracy and that its termination would show the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance's respect for the freedom of expression.

The government has just taken a very important step, clearly defining its image and commitments, confirming with facts the promises it made during the electoral campaign. Meaningless therefore is the effort made by Sinacoso to affiliate itself with a new order [nonaligned news agency pool sponsored by Cuba], under which it could hold forums and meetings with countries that have similar organizations but that do not enjoy the same public liberties we do, as is the case of countries of the communist sphere.

We support and praise this government gesture, inspired probably by the policies of President Garcia, who thus confirms his clear and open commitment to democracy, in which he is supported by his press adviser Hugo Otero. We are certain that the entire country will also support and praise this decision, like all of us who believe in and support democracy and a free press in Peru. Beyond the importance of this dissolution for the freedom of the press, there is also the administrative aspect to be considered. This effective action puts an end to an organization which no longer had any reason to exist.

POLICE PREVENT PLACEMENT OF 600 DYNAMITE STICKS

PY282111 Paris AFP in Spanish 2103 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 26 Mar (AFP) -- A police bomb squad yesterday defused approximately 600 dynamite sticks that were to be used to blow up the transmission plant of Radio Nacional and an antenna field of the National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru [Entelperu] in Villa Marina, Chorrillos district, the police reported today in Lima.

The explosives, which were found in three wooden boxes, could have caused a tragedy in several shantytowns in the southern section of Lima, according to the police squad which discovered the subversives and made them flee as they were trying to plant the dynamite. The boxes were 200 meters from Villa Marina, near the transmission plant of the official radio station and Entelperu. The dynamite sticks were defused and picked up by a Republican Guard bomb squad.

POLICE TARGET GUAYAGA COCAINE PROCESSORS

PY010053 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Alto Guayaga and Central Guayaga have been chosen by drug trafficking rings as their supply centers for cocaine paste. Police are now trying to cut off this connection, which is usually made through a huge network of clandestine airstrips for light aircraft coming from Colombia and Brazil. Alejandro Guerrero now has a report for you on the "Condor III" operation in the Guayaga.

[Begin relay] This is the Alto Guayaga region in Huanuco Department, a forested and rugged terrain, where international drug trafficking rings have their most important production centers for cocaine paste. On both banks of the Guayagas River -- where there are huge tracts of cultivated land -- hundred of tons of coca leaves are being produced. The coca leaves are the raw material for processing cocaine hydrochloride, which the drug traffickers sell throughout the world. The coca leaf plantations and crushing pits in Guayagas are an important link of the international drug trafficking network.

Along the river, from Tingo Maria to Tarapoto, the towns of Aucayacu, Uchiza, Tocache, Progreso, and (Sion) are regarded by the police as the most efficient producers of cocaine paste. More than 80 clandestine airstrips are operating in the area. These airstrips are being heavily used by light Colombian aircraft.

Within the durg trafficking organization, the Guayagas is closely linked to the Amazonian triangle where hundreds of laboratories process cocaine hydrochloride from the cocaine paste. Dozens of light Colombian planes take off daily from the Amazon triangle bound for Huanuco Department, overfly our Amazon area, land on the airstrips located on both banks of the Guayagas River, pick up the cocaine paste and return to the border before sunset. The main goal of the Civil Guard, which this week -- supported by Peruvian Air Force helicopters -- launched a huge raid in the Guayagas area, is to break this air bridge.

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED -- Personnel from the Raw Material Control Division of the Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP] captured an eight-member drug-trafficking gang in Peru on 28 February. Three trucks transporting 105 containers of sulfuric acid, used for making cocaine paste, were stopped at the Corcona road police control post on their way to Uchiza. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Mar 86 p A 8 PY]

LOAN AGREEMENT WITH CAF -- Lima, 17 Mar (AFP) -- Peru today signed two loan agreements with the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) for $40 million; $25 million for a government industrial reactivation program and $15 million to finish a national microwave network. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0310 GMT 18 Mar 86 PY]

GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS EXPLANATION OF REAGAN COMMENTS

PY020142 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Apr (EFE) -- Today Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias disclosed that Uruguay has deemed satisfactory the U.S. Government's explanations about President Ronald Reagan's statements regarding alleged Sandinist support to subversive groups in Latin American countries.

Iglesias confirmed that before Holy Week Uruguay had requested the U.S. Embassy in Montevideo give an explanation regarding Reagan's statements.

The U.S. President had expressly stated that guerrilla elements that received "shelter, training, forged documents, and, in some cases, weapons" were going to Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil.

On Monday, 31 March, Iglesias held a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Montevideo Malcolm Wilkey and received an explanation.

According to diplomatic sources, the United States explained to Uruguay, as it did to Argentina and Brazil, that it "has no proof that extremists supported by the Sandinists are operating in these countries."

The three countries had demanded an explanation from the United States after the speech Reagan made in Grenada. [as received]

Uruguay, together with Argentina and Brazil, forms part of the Support Group for the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) that since 1983 has been seeking a negotiated settlement to the Central American crisis.

PRESIDENT ISSUES REPORT ON 1985 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PA011601 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] President Miguel de la Madrid today presented to the Permanent Commission of Congress the report on the implementation of the 1985 National Development Plan. The president thus fulfills the planning law.

The document explains clearly that despite the seriousness of the crisis, in the last few years the nation has not halted and in many important sectors it has advanced more than was planned. For example, during 1985 the gross national product increased 3 percent and inflation increased 58 percent, which was 100 percent less than 3 years ago. The document presented by the federal executive to the Congress analyzes the progress of the country in the fulfillment of the fundamental objectives of the government in such areas as policy of the Mexican state, general economic policy, social policy, sectoral policy, decentralization of national life, regional policy, and the national democratic planning system. The document states that obvious achievements have been registered in the area of democratic coexistence and in the honesty and quick reporting of results of elections. There have also been achievements in political pluralism in popular representation, enjoyment of freedoms, and in the advance of municipal and legal reforms.

The president also pointed out in the document that with regard to structural changes, there has been an advance in the system to adapt the country to the new demands. In the area of demographic policy, population growth was reduced from 2.4 to 2.1 percent. Education was offered to 15.5 million students, a 3-percent increase from the previous year. Unemployment was reduced and inflation and public deficit rates were reduced by half during the last 2 years, the document sent by President De la Madrid to the Permanent Commission of Congress states.

BRIEFS

1986 NONPETROLEUM EXPORT PLANS -- Our country will export more than $9 billion in nonpetroleum products during 1986. This was stated by Jorge Barbaras, president of the Association of Importers and Exporters of the Mexican republic. He said that this will be achieved with the joint participation of businessmen and the government. Businessmen are getting better organized and are planning export operations better while the government is giving more facilities and is eliminating red tape, he noted. [Summary] [Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Mar 86 PA]

1985 TRADE SURPLUS -- The Bank of Mexico yesterday announced that despite the fact that oil revenues dropped by almost $2 billion in comparison with 1984, there was an overall trade surplus in 1985. This surplus amounted to $396.3 million. The 1985 oil export figure was $14,683,700,000 which compared to the $16,499,900,000 figure for the previous year is an 11-percent drop. The Bank of Mexico noted that total exports in 1985 amounted to $21, 835,000,000, which, compared to the $24,053,000,000 export figure for 1984, represented a 9.2 percent drop. This drop took place in exports of the public and private sectors. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Mar 86 pp 1A, 9A PA]

OIL RESERVES DOWN -- Mexico's proven petroleum reserves continue their decline, Pemex announced Sunday night. This is the second time during President de la Madrid's six-year term that Pemex has officially recognized this phenomenon. December 1985 level registered 70.9 billion barrels, while in 1984 proven reserves dropped from the all-time high of 72.5 billion barrels to 71.75 billion barrels, Pemex said. This means that during 1985 petroleum reserves dropped by 850 million barrels. Pemex stated that this slow depletion of reserves is due to drilling to produce 1.317 billion barrels of hydrocarbon products annually for domestic use and exports. [Excerpt] [Mexico City THE NEWS in English 24 Mar 86 p 43 PA]

EL SALVADOR

COPREFA COMMUNIQUE ON CLASHES, CASUALTIES

PA020331 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Coprefa communique, no date given, read by unidentified Coprefa spokesman -- live phone relay]

[Text] The deaths of four terrorists, and the confiscation of one M-16 rifle, ammunition clips, and ammunition are reported as the result of a clash between members of the 3d Infantry Brigade from San Miguel and extremist forces. The action took place northeast of the town of San Fernando, Morazan Department.

In addition, Juan Sanchez, Marcenaro del Carmen Zeron, and Nicolas Antonio Zeron were wounded when they stepped on an explosive device that was set up by the subversives. This event took place at Canton El Platanar, Suchitoto jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department. Furthermore, an Agrarian Development Bank warehouse was partially damaged when a group of terrorists attacked it. The attack was repelled by personnel of the 5th Military Detachment from Cojutepeque who were close to the area. The warehouse is located on the road between San Rafael Cedros and Ilobasco. Lastly, an electric pole was destroyed by terrorists last 30 March, close to (Cerro el Cumbo), Tecoluca jurisdiction, San Vicente Department.

CORRECTION TO ARENA PRESIDENT ON CORRUPTION

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "ARENA Urges President Duarte To Fight Corruption," published in the 28 March Latin America DAILY REPORT on pages P 3-4:

Page P 4, fifth paragraph, line three should read: ...to probe -- in a just and impartial manner -- the illegal ... (correcting word "imperial to read "impartial")

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT STUDYING SOLUTIONS TO BELIZE ISSUE

PA020335 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita has stated that the Christian Democratic government is studying formulas regarding the Guatemalan-British dispute over Belizean territory.

[Begin recording] [Quinonez] We believe that we must find a solution to the dispute we have with Great Britain over Belize. We are studying formulas to hold talks with Great Britain and find a solution to the disagreement. We are studying formulas. We need to have a great deal of creativity because the formulas that were used in the past have not led to the desired results. Therefore, we have to think of formulas that will maintain national dignity and that will [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Quinonez] No, because they are just ideas right now. When they are more developed and more seriously analyzed then I will be happy to reveal them. [end recording]

REBELS COLLECT 'WAR TAX' DURING HOLY WEEK

PA020333 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The guerrillas were active during Holy Week. Guerrillas of the Rebel Armed Forces, FAR, and the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, carried out a number of activities on the roads leading to La Reforma, San Marcos Departments, and to Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz Departments, residents who arrived in Guatemala City yesterday reported.

It was reported that dozens of guerrillas set up barricades on the roads to collect a war tax. Fortunately there were no casualties among the civilians, but there was concern among them because they were afraid that an armed clash would break out at any moment.

These actions took place on Sunday afternoon, and it was rumored that troops would be deployed to those areas. However, this did not occur, and the guerrillas fled to the mountains.

HONDURAS

AZCONA RECEIVES 'SOLIDARITY' MESSAGE FROM DUARTE

PA020326 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0252 GMT 2 Apr 86

[By German Reyes]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduras received a message of solidarity from the Salvadoran people and Government today concerning the Sandinist troops' raid into Honduran territory on 17 March.

Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte sent a message to President Jose Azcona Hoyo, stating his "decided and solid support to Honduras in its struggle to safeguard peace and pluralist democracy in Central America."

The note adds that peace and democracy in the Central American region are being threatened with acts such as the ones carried out by Nicaragua against Honduras this past March. In addition, Duarte tells Azcona Hoyo that his country has also been experiencing "direct or indirect" aggressions from the Sandinist People's Army of Nicaragua.

"Referring to these events, I state -- on behalf of the Salvadoran people, the government over which I preside, and my own -- our decided and united support in your struggle to safeguard peace and democracy in Central America," President Duarte's message says.

EVENTS SURROUNDING NICARAGUAN 'INVASION' VIEWED

PA011232 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Mar 86 p 5

[Editorial: "The White House Informs Us That There Is Peace Again at the Border"]

[Text] According to official U.S. sources, there are no more Sandinist soldiers in Honduran territory, following the famous "invasion" that caused an extraordinary flow of news in the U.S. media, and went unnoticed in Honduras, in the middle of the Holy Week period.

As in any planned action, the "war" between Honduras and Nicaragua disappeared like a soap bubble soon after the voting in the U.S. Senate to approve the $100 million of lethal financial aid for the contras had taken place.

The result of that voting, as the main U.S. newspapers have noted, was a very limited victory, with 53 votes in favor and 47 against. If we look mathematically at the $20 million granted by President Reagan for the mobilization of Honduran troops -- 600 soldiers, it has been said -- to the Nicaraguan border, each vote in favor meant a little more than $377,000, and each Catracho [slang for Honduran] soldier mobilized represented $33,333.

Of course, it is harder to estimate the political cost. However, we believe it is much higher than the economic cost. It is clear, as the U.S. people themselves have said, that the approval of Reagan's plan has limitations which will surely increase with the decision to be made by the U.S. Congress in mid-April.

After overcoming the initial misinformation shock, congressmen and senators now seem to realize that the "invasion" into Honduras has a smell quite similar to the strategem of the Tonkin Gulf in 1964, by which the U.S. Congress was deceived into approving direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam war.

For Hondurans, the matter was much clearer from the beginning, because our government was frank enough to hint at the real scope of the "war," which was more a war on paper than anything else. President Azcona, commanding general of the Armed Forces, General Regalado Hernandez, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and many military unit commanders took leave and left everything in U.S. hands.

General Galvin, commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command, flew to Tegucigalpa, surely to direct the operations, all by himself and without any restrictions. The U.S. Embassy enthusiastically handled the information aspect for the many U.S. journalists, as well as those of the U.S. backyard, who did not have a chance to see a battle or even a skirmish. During that time our Armed Forces did not issue a single bulletin.

The journalists had an opportunity to view a contra camp in our territory from the air, but they were not allowed to land there to carry out their journalistic work. At the end of the day, one thing was clear: The Nicaraguan border is perfectly delimited, and we all know where our territory ends and where our neighbor's begins. However, this is not clear to the Armed Forces, which is highly surprising.

Now, the U.S. State Department whose officials turn unidentifiable when reporting on the Honduran-Nicaraguan "war," is busy clarifying situations. Worst of all, the clarifications are not convincing. For example, they emphatically deny reports published by the influential U.S. daily THE MAIMI HERALD to the effect that the Honduran Government was forced to accept the reports on the Nicaraguan "invasion" in the face of the U.S. Government's threats to withdraw all economic aid to our country.

This could explain why President Azcona signed the letter sent to President Reagan asking him for emergency aid to stop the Sandinist hordes who, as new Attilas, stepped on our sacred land during Holy Week.

Fortunately, the tide is low now, and just as Washington told us that we were in a war, it now informs us that the danger is over. We will now wait until mid-April, when the matter will become hot again with the imminent voting in the U.S. Congress on the much-publicized $100 million for the contras, because then there will be reason for another war.

We must now act according to Honduran and Central American interests, for which our government must consider with good faith and determination the possibility of giving the Contadora Group and its Support Group direct participation in the supervision and control of the border area, as proposed by the Nicaraguan Government.

SALVADORAN GUERRILLA INCURSION REPORTED

PA012327 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2237 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A radio station in this capital has reported that a group of 19 Salvadoran guerrillas has crossed into Honduran territory through an area on the western border.

The radio station HRN [Voz de Honduras Network], quoting reliable sources, claimed that the incursion took place last Friday through Mapulaca in the Honduran Department of Lempira, on the border with El Salvador.

According to the radio station, the guerrillas took over the town of Los Planes, Mapulaca jurisdiction. However, they were expelled by the Honduran Army Special Forces. There are no reports of any casualties inflicted on the guerrillas or on the Honduran soldiers who protect the area bordering El Salvador.

Major Jorge Alberto Arguello Moncada, director of the Armed Forces public relations office, said that he had no official information about this incident. Arguello said only that the corresponding investigations would be carried out, and should the report released by the radio station be confirmed then an official communique would be issued.

MATA SAYS U.S. PAYS OFFICIAL FOR EXTRADITIONS

PA011540 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Bogota, Colombia -- Honduran Juan Ramon Mata Ballesteros, who escaped from a Bogota jail and turned himself over to authorities in his country yesterday, has said that Colombian Justice Minister Enrique Parejo receives money from the U.S. Government to authorize extraditions.

During a telephone conversation from Tegucigalpa with the Toledar Radio Network of Bogota, after an audience with a judge in Tegucigalpa, Mata said that Parejo had been bought by the DEA, that is, the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States. I do not know how much he is being paid for each extradition authorized to the United States, said Mata, who is charged with being a leader of international cocaine trafficking.

FORMER PRISONERS SEEK ASYLUM AT MEXICAN EMBASSY

PA020256 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 86

[By German Reyes]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa granted asylum to seven former political prisoners who were freed yesterday in this country based on an amnesty decree issued in March.

Two other persons are also at that diplomatic representation requesting the same guarantees.

The names of the individuals who were granted asylum were not disclosed. However, it was learned that they are accompanied by a few relatives.

This afternoon the HRN radio station reported that Honduran Gustavo Alfonso Garcia Espana, who had been under arrest until yesterday, charged with allegedly acting against the Honduran state security, will travel to Mexico tomorrow after requesting asylum at the Mexican Embassy in this capital.

A spokesman for the Committee of Political Prisoners [Comite de Presos Politicos] in Tegucigalpa confirmed today that seven former prisoners are currently at the Mexican Embassy but did not give their names.

For its part, the Mexican Embassy neither denied nor confirmed that nine Hondurans citizens had been granted asylum. An embassy spokesman told ACAN-EFE that he could not make a statement due to his diplomatic status, adding that "only the Foreign Secretariat's Press Office in Mexico City can do so."

Twenty Honduran citizens who also left the Central Jail in Tegucigalpa yesterday are currently at the offices of the Honduran Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, where they have been received "for humanitarian reasons," according to Demetrio Sanchez, executive secretary of that political party. Sanchez added that those 20 individuals will travel to their places of origin tomorrow and that the PDCH has offered them food and clothing and will pay their fares home.

In Honduras, up until March there were 31 political prisoners charged with violating state security. Two of them are Costa Rican citizens, Elias Solis and his wife Martha Espinoza, and one is Salvadoran, Jose Gonzalo Flores Trejo. Flores Trejo, who was released yesterday, was arrested again by immigration authorities and charged with being in the country illegally. The Salvadoran Embassy in Tegucigalpa is trying to obtain his freedom and send him to an undisclosed country. Jose Gonzalo Flores Trejo is in need of urgent medical attention, as he has cancer of the larynx.

Prior to the issuance of the amnesty decree by the Honduran Congress, General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander of the Armed Forces, said that the liberation of the alleged political prisoners constitutes "a danger to the national security." According to Gen Regalado Hernandez, some of the former political prisoners were criminals who tried to "set Honduras on fire," adding that "it cost the Armed Forces much time and effort to get them behind bars." The amnesty for political prisoners in Honduras was requested by the Association of Journalists, and later several popular organizations supported the initiative.

NICARAGUA

NORA ASTORGA CITED ON LIBYA, BORDER SITUATION

PA011457 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] New York -- Nora Astorga, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, said today that the UN Security Council should reflect the will of the international community and condemn the unjustified acts of provocation and intimidation by the United States against Libya, a small, independent, and nonaligned country.

In this way, Nicaragua joined Cuba in criticizing the U.S. policy of blackmail and provocation against Libya. The Security Council, which was convened at the most tense moments of the U.S.-Libyan miniwar, stopped discussing the topic without taking a position on it, and diplomatic observers doubt that a debate on the subject will be reopened.

Nora Astorga denied that Nicaragua carried out military incursions into Honduran territory and demanded a direct dialogue not with the contras but with the Reagan administration, which finances and directs them. Ambassador Astorga gave a detailed report to the nonaligned countries regarding the latest events in the country and the situation on the border with Honduras.

For its part, the Coordination Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement stressed the importance of halting the campaign of slander and acts of aggression against Nicaragua and the need for the U.S. and Nicaraguan Governments to renew their talks on the basis of mutual respect and self-determination.

ARCE HEADS SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING GROUP

PA011447 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Apr 86

[FSLN National Directorate Secretariat Communique; date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] The FSLN National Directorate Secretariat reports that Commander of the Revolution Bayard Arce Castano, deputy coordinator of the Executive Commission of the FSLN National Directorate, heads the FSLN delegation that will participate in the meeting of the Latin American Committee of the Socialist International that will be held in the Dominican Republic from 2 to 5 April.

The delegation also includes Comrades Jose Pasos Marciacq, deputy chief of the International Relations Department of the FSLN, and Bolivar Diaz and Hugo Meneses, officials of that department.

After 25 years, all weapons against aggression!

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS ACTIONS, CASUALTIES

PA012340 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 1 Apr 86 pp 1, 8

[Communique from the Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Directorate, dated in Managua, on 31 March]

[Text] One hundred and fifteen additional casualties were inflicted by the EPS on the counterrevolutionary forces during the clashes that took place from 24-30 March. This again represents a failure on the part of the mercenaries to try and show their military might, to disrupt the people's peace during the festivities with their actions, and achieve publicity for their plans concerning actions against our people.

The main military actions took place in the sector of Nueva Quinea and La Pinuela, Zelaya Department, and in Jinotega and Chontales Departments. Twenty-two clashes are reported, including the following:

Clashes on 27 March: in the southeastern sector of San Pedro del Norte, Zelaya Department, where the mercenaries inflicted 12 casualties; in the north, northwest, and south sectors of La Pinuela, Zelaya Department, where AK rifles, M-79 grenade launchers, dynamite, and hand grenades were seized and 12 enemy casualties were inflicted.

Chontales Department: Clashes were reported in the north and northwest sectors of Santo Domingo, where five contras were killed on 30 March.

In addition, Jinotega Department was the site of clashes in the sectors of Loma Azul, located west of Pantasma, where 20 contras were killed; southeast of Quilali, where a clash ensued on 24 March, and 10 mercenaries were killed; and near San Sebastian de Yali and San Rafael del Norte, where 14 additional casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

In the same department the counterrevolutionaries ambushed a civilian truck on 24 March, at 1120, while it was travelling through the sector of Yacalwas, 9 km northeast of Wiwili; two civilians were killed, eight wounded, and the truck was destroyed by the mercenaries.

Public and Foreign Relations Directorate, Defense Ministry

CARDINAL REJECTS 'SLANDER' AGAINST PRIESTS

PA272314 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2027 GMT 27 Mar 86

[By Denis Garcia Salinas]

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo today attacked the Sandinist Government because it is "insulting and slandering" Catholic priests. The prelate availed himself of the Eucharist during the traditional Maundy Thursday mass, at the Massarelo School in this capital, to criticize the official news media.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo asserted that Catholic priests are being "demolished" by the Sandinist media's "insults and slander." Addressing more than 5,000 persons, the Vatican's representative in this country criticized the Sandinist regime because it sponsors a constant "bombing" against the priests through the official news media.

Less than 24 hours after Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said that Cardinal Obando y Bravo was an "accomplice" of "Reagan's crimes due to his silence" the prelate rejected the Sandinist official's charges. The cardinal asked the parishoners to "pray for the priests who are being insulted" by the government's news media.

The Managua Archdiocese Sacerdotal Council issued a communique supporting Obando y Bravo and criticizing the campaign against them aimed at provoking "aversion and hate" of the church. The president of the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua (CEN) also rejected the Sandinist Government's accusations that the prelate had gone to Washington to contribute to the campaign to discredit this country.

Obando y Bravo referred to this issue and described the Sandinists' constant attacks as "slander." The regious official said that the reason for his trip was not to be an instrument supporting the approval of $100 million which President Ronald Reagan requested for the rebels to fight the Nicaraguan regime. He added: "We did not go to the United States to sell our homeland."

Miguel Obando y Bravo and CEN Vice President Pablo Antonio Vega went to the United States and the two prelates strongly criticized the Sandinists.

Obando y Bravo accused the Sandinists of carrying out "religious persecution," and meanwhile, Vega said that the government in Managua had assassinated three priests, but he offered no evidence. Given this situation, the Sandinists unleashed a strong campaign against the two religious leaders, who were accused by D'Escoto and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega of being "counterrevolutionaries and traitors to the homeland."

Cardinal Obando y Bravo justified their trip to Washington by saying that they had gone there to denounce the expulsion of 10 priests from Nicaragua in July 1984. Obando y Bravo maintained that the expelled priests were "interrogated and their fingerprints were taken." The cardinal rejected, therefore, the charge that the "Nicaraguan bishops are stained with blood."

Later, during his Holy Week homily, the cardinal criticized the economic, political, and social situation which prevails in the country. "There is no deliverance in the country if hunger and scarcity prevail, and the jails -- which he described as the devil's cauldrons -- are full of prisoners," he asserted. Obando y Bravo prayed for the dead in the rebel and government ranks, "because they are all Nicaraguans." The prelate also reasserted that he is a Nicaraguan.

Views D'Escoto Remarks

PA290056 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2017 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Bogota, 28 Mar (DPA) -- Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, Cardinal of Nicaragua, today affirmed that the foreign minister of the Sandinist government in his country, Catholic priest Miguel D'Escoto, is "a poor and frustrated man, full of rancor." He said that on the occasion of Easter Week, he will ask Nicaragua's Catholics to pray to heaven for D'Escoto who, he said, has declared himself in rebellion against the Vatican which has suspended him from his priestly functions and prohibited his participation in politics, a fact that he refuses to accept.

Obando y Bravo made this statement during a radio interview in Managua broadcast live by the Colombian radio station Circuito Todelar [of Bogota]. He had been asked his opinion regarding D'Escoto's charges that he has become a U.S. ally and, therefore, an enemy of his own fatherland.

The leader of the Nicaraguan church, who is the archbishop of Managua, also said that he appreciates the work being carried out by the Contadora Group -- Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, and Mexico -- in favor of peace in Central America. Obando y Bravo noted, however, that in his opinion Contadora has put too much emphasis on an external solution and that in Nicaragua, the church is in favor of a broad domestic political agreement, something that is not viewed favorably by the Sandinist Government.

The Nicaraguan prelate, who spoke at length, lent no importance to D'Escoto's charges, which were stressed in recent hours during a religious ceremony presided over by the Sandinist foreign minister at Managua's Plaza de la Revolution. The Cardinal said that there is no tie at all between the U.S. Government and Nicaragua's Catholic hierarchy although it is true that the U.S. Catholic Church as well as that of other Latin American countries and of the rest of the world are supporting it in the face of the current difficulties with the government in that Central American country.

Obando y Bravo said that he recently visited the United States for the sole purpose of denouncing the injustices that the Nicaraguan people are enduring.

He also said he hopes other Latin American nations do not have to endure the political and social "frustrations" being suffered by the Nicaraguans. Obando y Bravo stated that the specter of hunger is beginning to hit some Managua neighborhoods and other Nicaraguan areas and that in spite of threats against his life resulting from his confrontation with the Sandinist Government, he will fearlessly go on with his apostolic work.

Cardinal Criticized

PA281424 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has again launched his attacks with lies that are repeated daily by the White House to justify the war against Nicaragua. The counterrevolutionary radio stations, Radio 15 September and Radio Impacto which are located in Honduran and Costa Rican bases, have been promoting the activities of Cardinal Obando y Bravo during this Holy Week.

This Maundy Thursday, the cardinal officiated a mass at the chapel of the Maria Mazarello school of Managua in full freedom. This contrasts with the assertions in his sermon about the existence of a systematic persecution of the church by the government. He said that he and the other bishops of the Episcopal Conference have been insulted and slandered by the country's social communications media which, he said, want to turn us away from the path of our pastoral duty. Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan cardinal also said that there can be no salvation or liberation when adults and children die from lack of medicine and health centers, when there is negligence by doctors and nurses, when there is hunger, and when there are political prisoners forgotten in the jails.

Father Miguel D'Escoto challenged the bishops to denounce the U.S. aggression which is the cause of some of the problems that Cardinal Obando y Bravo mentioned. However, Obando y Bravo continues to refuse to do so. There is a powerful interest that prevents him from doing so. Obando y Bravo spoke about the lack of medicine, but he did not say that it is the result of the Reagan administration's trade embargo. He spoke about the shortage of health centers but he ill-intentionally concealed that the health centers that were built by the revolutionary government in places where there had never been medical attention, and that they have been and continue to be destroyed by the mercenary bands in the service of Reagan. The cardinal spoke about political prisoners forgotten in the jails when in fact the Nicaraguan prison system has been clearly praised by human rights officials of countries and international organizations that have visited Nicaragua.

Because of his arguments, his lies, his false concepts of the Sandinist people's revolution, he continues to lash out wildly and to repeat arguments that cannot stand up to the most minimal analysis. Because he does not have truth to back him up, he refused to attend the television debate to which he was invited on Wednesday. That was a good opportunity for the Nicaraguan people to hear his accusations and arguments.

Father D'Escoto had pointed out that a single clear and categorical statement by the bishops would halt the U.S. Congress' allocations but the prelates continue to refuse to issue such a statement.

DELEGATIONS TO NONALIGNED MEETING ARRIVE

PA311304 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Several delegations have arrived in Havana to participate in the meeting of ministers of education and culture of the Nonaligned Movement which is to start at the Conventions Palace of the Cuban capital on Tuesday. Representatives of Congo, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Democratic Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Cape Verde, and Iraq are already in Havana. The participants in the meeting, which will end Friday, will analyze topics concerning education policy, the democratization of education and culture, and education for peace.

Education Minister's Greetings

FL012338 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The need to structure in form and content the educational and cultural systems of developing countries continues to be the main concern in all the speeches made today at the second meeting of education and culture ministers from the Nonaligned Movement and other developing countries. The meeting began this morning in Havana's Palace of Conventions.

Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba and education minister, greeted the participants in the name of the Cuban Government. He referred to the first meeting held 3 years ago and said:

[Begin recording] The time that has passed confirms the importance and the role of the Nonaligned Movement as well as the need to continue advancing in the areas of culture and education as the primary objective of the battle we maintain for peace and progress for our peoples. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION ENDS TALKS IN ZAMBIA

FL010306 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0206 GMI 1 Apr 86

[Text] The next ministerial meeting of nonaligned countries that will be held in April was the main topic of conversation at the discussions held in Lusaka, Zambia, between representatives of the Cuban and Zambian Foreign Ministeries. The negotiations ended today between delegations from the two countries, presided over by M.J. (Sikao), Zambian vice minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ulises Estrada, chief of the Nonaligned Movement division of the Cuban Foreign Ministry. Also discussed at the meeting was the next nonaligned countries' summit, to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in September. The Cuban delegation arrived in Lusaka last Sunday and will travel to Luanda to hold similar conversations with the Angolan Foreign Ministry.

MEXICANS TO DEFEND MIGRANT WORKERS AT IPU MEETING

PA011822 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Report by Francisco Ramirez, correspondent in Mexico City]

[Text] Mexican senators and deputies will demand equal rights for the undocumented workers who emigrate to the United States during the upcoming IPU conference, which will be held in Mexico City.

The topic of the migrant workers -- most of whom are peasants -- who are persecuted and discriminated against in the neighboring country will be included by the Mexican legislators in the agenda of the meeting, which will be held from 7 to 12 April. The Mexican group said that the migrant workers must enjoy the same rights with regard to salary, social security, vacation, housing, trade union rights, and other rights existing in the country that receives them.

Regarding the causes for the emigration, the group noted that the economic crisis gives rise to mass unemployment, which in turn increases the poverty of millions of families plagued by the lack of a secure job. Regarded as a reserve labor force, the immigrants are the first to be affected by mass layoffs and, in view of the pressing need for employment and lack of equal rights, are manipulated by pressure groups.

The topic of the undocumented workers has been one of the most sensitive issues in relations between Mexico and the United States because attempts are being made in the latter country to curb this immigration with simple policy-type measures. The Mexican press constantly publishes reports about mass arrests and deportations of Mexicans who cross the border in search for a job, as well as reports about abuses against them by their employers.

The 75th IPU conference will convene in Mexico during the second week of April, with over 2,000 legislators from 104 parliaments in the world, who will review the most important current economic, political, and social controversial issues.

SPOKESMAN VOICES CONCERN AT LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE

FL291825 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 March 86 p 22

[Text] A fear that major world powers might go ahead with deep sea-bed mining to reduce their dependency on minerals supplied by the developing countries, was expressed last week by Cuba at the Law of the Sea Conference in Kingston. Cuba spoke at a meeting of the special commission on land-based producers at the Jamaica Conference Centre against the background of rich countries led by the United States issuing licences to consortia to mine the sea-bed.

The commission was discussing a working paper on remedial measures that could help land-based producer states most likely to be seriously affected by sea-bed production. Cuba said the developing countries must take into account the possibilities that major powers might decide to subsidise their consortia and go ahead with deep sea-bed mining in the near future to reduce their dependency on minerals supplied by the developing countries.

Cuba's spokesman pointed to reports that the United States, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany had already licensed their consortia to begin sea-bed exploration as proof of their intent to proceed with deep sea-bed mining. The spokesman said that though deep sea-bed mining would be more costly than land-based mining, the major powers could subsidise operations to complete effectively with land-based producers.

Both Cuba and Colombia, however, pointed to comments made in the working paper by the United Nations Development Programmer (UNDP) to the effect that deep sea-bed mining was not likely to be economically feasible until well after the year 2000. But commenting on Cuba's statement, the representative of Australia, said the special commission was only concerned with the economy of sea-bed mining and its impact on land-based producers.

The special commission must reject the notion that sea-bed production will be based on anything other than economic considerations. The spokesman said that it must proceed on the assumption that sea-bed mining will be "non-subsidised and on strictly commercial basis."

In other talks, delegates discussed the question of confidentiality in sea-bed disputes chamber.

DISCUSSION OF PARTY PROGRAM DRAFT BEGINS

FL011323 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The discussion of the draft of the party program is the most important political debate to be held in the history of Cuba.

In essence, it deals with the result of the revolutionary work and allows a better understanding of a Marxist-Leninist view of the history of the struggle of our countries. The program draft focuses on the circumstances of the year 2000 and considers the basic guidelines which will allow our people to build a better society.

In sum, the discussion of the draft of the party program will allow our people to identify what they really want to accomplish, how, and when. Once the program draft is discussed the party will be in a better position to lead the process of building socialism, and all our people will be able to carry out more effectively this huge task.

How will the party program draft be analysed and discussed? In today's GRANMA, official organ of the party's Central Committee, an extensive report on the subject is published. Basically, GRANMA says that the analysis and discussion process begins today, 1 April, among the party membership.

During the entire month, party grass-root organizations will discuss three of the six parts into which the important document is divided. The other three parts will be discussed in May. The draft also will be analyzed and discussed in May by the Union of Young Communists and other mass organizations. The process will end in September.

After being analyzed by all the Cuban people, the draft of the party program, greatly enriched politically and ideologically, will be submitted to a third party congress special session, which will approve its final resolution.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN MEETS U.S. LAWMAKERS, VIEWS C. AMERICA

PY021630 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1455 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin today told a delegation of U.S. lawmakers headed by Thomas O'Neill that Argentina "does not believe" that encouraging armed actions by the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries is "an appropriate method" for the objectives of the democracies of the region. The president thus alluded to the $100 million in military aid that the U.S. Government is trying to extend to the Nicaraguan irregulars. Alfonsin pointed out that the democracies of the region must follow "another method" to fulfill an objective that "is shared by the United States and by the majority of Latin American nations. This objective is to make sure that a pluralistic, democratic government rules in Nicaragua."

During the meeting with the U.S. lawmakers at the Olivos residence this morning, the president also referred to the foreign debt issue as the "discriminatory commercial measures applied by both the EEC and the United States." At the conclusion of the meeting, presidential spokesman Ignacio Lopez told reporters that "the Central American crisis and the foreign debt were the main topics discussed" during the 1-hour meeting. The 14 U.S. lawmakers, who were accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz and other officials, left the presidential residence without making any comments.

Lopez remarked that Alfonsin pointed out to the U.S. lawmakers the seriousness "of the spectacular drop in the prices of farm and cattle products" observed over the past few months. "This factor has further aggravated the situation of the Latin American countries, particularly because it has affected the quality and quantity of our exports," Alfonsin added.

The president said that this situation constitutes "one of the most serious crises that the sector has experienced in decades." The presidential spokesman added that at the request of the U.S. lawmakers, Alfonsin reiterated the Argentine Government's support for the Contadora Group negotiations and stated that "Argentina does not believe that encouraging the armed action of the so-called contras is an appropriate method" for the objectives of the democratic countries of the region.

The president added: "Another method must be followed to fulfill an objective that is shared by the United States and the majority of the Latin American nations. This objective is to make sure that a pluralistic, democratic government rules in Nicaragua." In conclusion, Lopez reported that Alfonsin thanked his interlocutors for their visit "because it will help maintain an open dialogue between lawmakers of democratic countries, and particularly because it will help strengthen democracy in our country and in all the other Latin American countries."

TROCCOLI ON COMMITMENT TO RECOVER FALKLANDS

PY022115 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (NA) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli has denied that the national government "is trying to make the people forget their hopes for the recovery of the Malvinas Islands." He noted the need to strengthen a strategy through diplomatic channels seeking solutions "for the recovery of the South Atlantic islands."

Troccoli, who attended a mass in commemoration of those who died during the Malvinas war, stated at the end of the ceremony that "we have an obstacle to negotiations and that obstacle is the U.K. Government, but we are convinced that this situation will be overcome and the legitimacy of Argentine rights will be recognized."

The interior minister also referred to the conflict and recalled that "heroism and total sacrifice have marked an exceptional characteristic in the life of the Argentine people, and we recall that sacrifice constitutes something that goes deep in the national spirit." "With this objective we are working to integrate the islands to the republic geographically and politically once and for all," Troccoli stated.

Asked whether negotiations with Great Britain could be resumed before the end of Dr Alfonsin's presidential term, he said: "The Foreign Ministry has begun with systematic force the attempt to negotiate a rapprochement which the war action has delayed more than expected." He also termed "unconfirmed rumor" the report that Judge Cardinali had accused him of not having complied with the duties of a public official on admitting Raul Guglielminetti into the intelligence services of the constitutional government. In this regard he said that "Judge Cardinali has the power to make whatever accusations he wishes, but he will have to prove them. We have fulfilled our duties, and we are also in a position to prove it."

SAILOR CONFIRMS ARMS SHIPMENT TO HONDURAS

PY030408 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0242 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (DYN) -- Sailor Alberto Alonso of the Argentine cargo vessel Punta Brava today reiterated that toward the end of December last year this ship "carried a cargo of [word indistinct] that were unloaded in Puerto Cortes," Honduras. The report on the sale of arms to Honduras has appeared in the latest issue of the magazine EL PORTENO and has been officially denied.

Alonso held a press conference at the headquarters of EL PORTENO. On this occasion he said that he "was surprised by the official denial because all the members of the crew witnessed the initial loading in Buenos Aires, in which the Argentine Army participated, and the unloading in Honduras." Alonso also said that in addition to the photographs he took of the shipment -- published by EL PORTENO -- "it would be easy to check out the movement of ships in Puerto Cortes on the date in question, including a Honduran Navy ship Tegucigalpa and a German ship whose crews also witnessed the unloading." According to the report the shipment to Honduras included 50 troop carriers, and light and medium arms that were later taken into the country where the bases of Nicaraguan contras are located.

COSMONAUT KUBASOV ARRIVES FOR COMMUNIST FESTIVAL

PY011429 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0340 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (TELAM) -- Soviet Cosmonaut Valeriy Nicolayevich Kubasov, who has been awarded the medal of the Hero of the USSR on two occasions, this afternoon arrived in Argentina to attend the third Argentine Communist Party Annual Festival. Kubasov, 51, holds a Phd in technical sciences. In October 1969 he flew the Soyuz 6 and in 1975 the Soyuz 19. His last space flight was in 1980.

GOVERNMENT FIRES 75,000 STRIKING TEACHERS

PY021457 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2351 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 1 Apr (EFE) -- The Bolivian Government today automatically fired some 75,000 urban and rural teachers upon the expiration of the deadline of a government ultimatum to lift the general strike they have been holding over the past 2 months in support of a salary increase.

Irvin Alcaraz, the vice minister of information, has announced significant reforms in the education system. Included in the reforms is the registration of new teachers at the national level to replace those fired.

The official government spokesman said that the "executive branch will enforce its decision to declare the teachers' positions vacant in order to purge the list of teachers and to separate those who are harmful to the functioning of the school."

The government of President Victor Paz Estenssoro had issued a decree declaring the teachers' strike illegal and calling on them to return to work within 6 days. The deadline expired on 1 April.

Noel Orozco, the executive secretary of the Bolivian Teachers Confederation, said that the government can go ahead and look for 75,000 "ascetics" to work for a starvation salary to replace the teachers.

Orozco said that the government decree firing the teachers is unconstitutional and arbitrary. He also announced that the strike will continue.

The teachers' claims have the support of the population because their salaries are below the level considered essential to survive.

AIR FORCE CHIEF MATTHEI DISAGREES WITH SHULTZ

PY021459 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] No Chilean shares the opinion of the U.S. secretary of state. This comment was made by Chilean Air Force Commander in Chief General Fernando Matthei when referring to a statement by the U.S. secretary of state, who has said that Chile is ruled by a dictatorship like those in Cuba and Nicaragua. I believe he does not have a clear picture of the situation, and I believe no Chilean will agree with him, Gen Matthei said. Gen Matthei referred to this issue after an ordinary meeting of the Government Junta at the Diego Portales building. The legislative branch met this afternoon to analyze and approve an additional tax on fuels.

DEL VALLE RESPONDS TO REP MORRISON'S REMARKS

PY030125 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] A few minutes ago Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle stated that Chile does not need advice from foreign congressmen. He was referring to statements by U.S. Democratic Congressman Bruce Morrison on human rights in Chile. The foreign minister stated:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] we do not need foreign statements, speeches, recommendations, advice, or elections, because we know perfectly well the path that we are taking. Therefore, I am not at all concerned about the recommendations that have been made by this congressman, or by any other congressman, because we have our own path to follow, and we will follow it. [end recording]

Del Valle also stated that he could not care less who gave this type of recommendation, whether from the U.S. Government, France, or the FRG, because, he said, Chile has its own path to follow. He stressed that the government is not running scared and that it does not act from fear of what other countries do where Chile is concerned.

LABOR LEADERS SEEK TO POSTPONE PAPAL VISIT

PY022236 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0306 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 1 Apr (EFE) -- A group of labor union leaders and members headed by Clotario Blest, a longtime union leader who has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize on three occasions, today opposed Pope John Paul II's visit to Chile. According to reports by the Nunciature, the pope plans to visit Chile in 1987, and a bishops' commission is already working on a schedule for the visit.

Blest and 10 other union leaders today joined progressive Catholic groups who are asking the pope to "postpone his visit to the country until social justice and freedom are established in our nation." Progressive Catholic groups are also collecting signatures for a letter to the pope asking him to postpone his visit to Chile to prevent the military's using his visit as propaganda.

FARC INVITES POPE, BETANCUR TO HEADQUARTERS

PA021331 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0301 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (EFE) -- FARC, which signed a truce with the government, today invited Pope John Paul II and President Belisario Betancur to their headquarters in the mountain "to reflect about the national peace process." The oldest guerrilla group in the country, which signed an indefinite truce with Betancur's government in 1984, stated that "even though we have not gone to confession for quite a time, we want to avail ourselves of the pope's visit to Colombia next July and "tell him the truth." [Quotation marks as received]

Jacobo Arenas, Alfonso Cano, and Timoleon Jimenez (alias Timoschenko), members of the High Command, stated to a national television newscast that their group may break the truce any moment "if they are attacked or if another round is fired against them." "All FARC members agreed on the invitation to the pope, a world figure who seeks the same thing that the Colombians seek: peace with justice," said Jimenez at La Uribe, a mountain region 200 km southwest of Bogota.

The new member of the group's Directorate, the ideologist whose real name is Luis Morantes, agreed with Arenas' statement that "we have not gone to confession for quite a time, but since so many things have happened and it is necessary to tell the truth, we want to tell it to the pope."

Arenas said that FARC is sponsoring a national civic strike "to protest militarism, unless a national consensus is achieved" and deplored the fact that he had never held a personal dialogue with the head of state.

The guerrilla leaders also revealed that Jose Fedor Rey (alias Javier Delgado) deserted and took $8 million to the Ricardo Franco dissident group, where he ordered the execution of more than 150 persons, accusing them of being "military infiltrators."

FARC reasserted that they will fulfill the truce, extended indefinitely last 1 March, through the Patriotic Unity party, which participated in the legislative elections held on 9 March; it will also participate in the upcoming 25 May presidential elections.

The invitation for an interview at the FARC camp was extended to those who hope to replace Betancur in the Presidency for the next 4 years. FARC was founded more than 35 years ago and at one time was comprised of 9,000 men in 27 different fronts.

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH U.S. EXPIRES END OF APRIL

PA021927 Bogota Radio Sutatenza in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The deadline for submitting amendments to the current extradition treaty between the United States and Colombia expires this month. The two countries decided to set that deadline in view of the fact that meetings held between the two countries' commissions have failed.

Justice Minister Enrique Parejo Gonzalez told Radio Sutatenza that the Colombian delegates will travel to Washington in the 3d week of April. If no positive agreements are reached at that time, Colombia will give up proposing new conversations between the two countries.

STROESSNER ADDRESSES OPENING OF CONGRESS

PY021615 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 1304 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Speech by President Alfredo Stroessner to the opening session of Congress -- live]

[Excerpts] Honorable members of the National Congress. In compliance with Article 180, Clause 10 of the nation's Constitution, I am here to open this year's legislative session and to report on the activities carried out by the government from 1 April 1985 to today. I am very pleased to assert before the representative of the people that the Republic of Paraguay is moving ahead safely and confidently toward the future with order, freedom, and all the spiritual force of the nationalism that we inherited from our forefathers under the sign of glory.

Our words are infused with faith and optimism because peace prevails and because there can be no arguments against peace. Peace is the triumph of law and order. Peace is a patriotic and Christian task that means the defeat of violence and the affirmation of the reign of progress through the wide path of fraternity. We are a civilized nation respectful of the precepts of the law and of the basic principles of coexistence. The people have placed in our hands a responsibility, in the face of which we will not weaken or retreat, to defend the Constitution and the laws of the Republic. [applause]

Municipal elections were held on 20 October 1985. The elections ended with the following results: Colorado Party: 700,012 votes; Radical Liberal Party: 61,500 votes; Liberal Party: 23,899 votes; void and blank votes: 9,423 votes. The elections were clean, without deaths or injuries. This is democracy and not cheap talk. [applause] Democracy cannot be defended by a weak government. Democracy means casting votes in elections. The Colorado Party is the government, because it is the majority, and the minorities must assist in making a good government.

We have overcome decades of painful anarchy. We have put an end to the petty practices of discord which for so many years divided the Paraguayan people and wasted their energy through useless hate. The memoirs of Msgr Juan Sinforiano Bogarin prove this. This illustrious man was born on 21 August 1863 and died on 25 February 1949. The monsignor was an archbishop who made his pastoral trips on horseback, carrying his religious mission over nearly 50,000 km of our territory. I recommend that his memoirs be read so that the atrocities committed in the past and the anarchy that prevailed and resulted in a lack of attention to our sovereignty can be understood. This anarchy facilitated the invasion of our territory, which resulted in the bloody confrontation with Bolivia.

From the beginning of our administration we have ensured respect for human rights by saying yes to peace and no to the barbarism of extremists, crime, and subversion. [applause] Our democracy means protection of life and freedom, it is a shell to protect the decency of the citizens, a tireless effort at the service of common good. The world no longer looks at us as a society divided by hatred and poverty. The Constitution is legitimate and cannot be attacked. No one has the right to ignore or disobey the Constitution, because it is the cornerstone of our free institutions as established by Article 9 of the Constitution. The Constitution is the supreme law of the nation.

Our actions comply and will continue to comply with the Constitution and the laws, which we respect and enforce. [applause] We will not tolerate the disruption of coexistence. We speak legitimately in the name of the people, because their vote gave us our constitutional mandate. The Colorado Party speaks on behalf of the people because it has the overwhelming majority, as demonstrated in the elections. Anyone who speaks without representativity in the name of the people is a subversive usurper, not a democrat. [applause]

The government, made up of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, with the protective shell of the law and democracy, functions in harmony with the institutions. The government is not only made up of the Colorado Party, which is the overwhelming majority, but also of the legally recognized opposition parties as shown by the integration of this Congress, the municipalities, and the electoral courts which are proof of the democratic multiparty system. The irregular groups are the deserters of civic responsibility, enemies of elections, and insignificant enclaves of embittered politicians who speak of democracy yet do not want anything to do with the elections, who speak of the state of law yet advocate the violation of the law, who speak of dialogue yet hold monologues by excluding themselves from elections. They are recalcitrant fanatics who talk only among themselves and cannot see the benefits of the great achievements of peace. [applause]

We have not only established peace by dialogue, but also peace by achievements. We exchange opinions and viewpoints as a part of the policy of common good. We talk and listen, and we do not waste time on rhetoric. We go into action very day to do what is positive and beneficial for the country. One of the reasons for the great political influence of the Colorodo Party is that it never stopped seeking out the feelings of the people. Inspired by that principle, it has not governed once against the great desires of the people. I have always been in contact with the politicians who act within the law, with the workers, peasants, businessmen, students, teachers, with the representatives of the church, social, cultural, economic, and sports circles, with men and women and even children, who come to my office with their tender gestures of affection. [applause]

Our policies are successful because they are guided by the will of the people. We practice freedom without demagoguery. Dialogue within the law is democracy. Dialogue outside the law is not dialogue but subversion. [applause] The vote is the best demonstration of democratic dialogue, because the people express their sovereign will through vote and those who support democracy cannot be against elections, because in a democracy elections determine who are the real representatives.

We are in the vanguard regarding the vast range of human rights. There is freedom to work, to enjoy culture, to carry out all types of legal activities, and to allow for the full development of the human being. The peaceful revolution not only provides dignity for the Paraguayan man, it has also obtained the full exercise of civilian and political rights for the Paraguayan woman, based on legislation that justifies the self-sacrifice and virtures of the women who participated in the War of the Triple Alliance. [applause]

There is not one stain on our democracy. There are no political prisoners. There are no missing persons. There are no freedom-restricting laws. We have no terrorism, and there are no bloody street incidents. We do not have masses of very poor people begging for help to subsist. We do not have an alarming unemployment rate or the heavy burden of illiteracy. We do not have the dramas of some countries whose youth have surrendered to drugs and crime or the poison of extremist ideologies.

Regarding the strengthening of our economic independence, with legitimate pride, I can state that we have achieved self-sufficiency in wheat, thus overcoming every type of pessimistic forecast and at the same time we are guaranteeing Paraguayan bread for Paraguayan homes. It is our desire to create more opportunities for the progress and happiness of our people. Thus I can state happily that more than 200 localities are now receiving electricity, and this will allow them to progress rapidly in all sectors. The country enjoys freedom of the press, and this is confirmed by the dailies, weeklies, magazines, radios, and television channels that report, that have commentaries, and that criticize without any type of restriction. Censorship does not exist, journalists are not intimidated in any way, and no methods are used to influence, either directly or indirectly, the leanings of the media.

There are journalistic organs that abuse freedom of the press through the dissemination of false reports and biased commentaries that distort the truth of today's Paraguay. The dissemination of lies abroad, with the intention of harming the country's image, must be repudiated. When free reign is given to sensationalism or when discouragement, pessimism, and confusion are sown, then the journalist is not acting responsibly. Just to mention one case, pseudo-journalists have exaggerated the effects of the drought. A group of farmers, however, of Itapua and Alto Parana have expressed, to a group of journalists, their denial that there was an alarming situation regarding the soybean harvest. If there had been a decrease in the yield per hectare in no way would it have had negative or serious repercussions on the economy. A similar case occurred in Volendam.

It is our duty to guarantee freedom of the press, but it must be properly understood that at the same time it is our duty to prevent excesses that violate peace and coexistence. Terrorism by the pen or by the word violates the free thinking of man and tries to create a situation of social unrest, subversion, and chaos. It must not be forgotten that the Constitution guarantees freedom of thought and opinion, but Article 71 states: The preaching of hate among Paraguayans, class struggles, or the eulogy of crime or violence will not be allowed. Criticism of the laws is free, but nobody can disobey their contents. Article 73 establishes that all press organs must have a legal and responsible directorate. Serious journalism does not lie or defame. It forms and informs. It forms ideas for the good, and it informs with objectivity. [applause]

Paraguay has never refused its support for the causes of the Western world. We are a nation that honors the banner of freedom within the continent and demonstrates its moral values under the full compliance of its international commitments. We are a nation that has never shirked its duty of respecting the self-determination of other nations. Thus, as a nation we demand respect for our sovereignty, which is a sacred principle. We are intransigent in the defense of our sovereignty, which is the heritage of our race, the sovereignty that is lit by the unquenchable radiance of the example of our glorious dead, by the indomitable courage of our people, who in two international wars showed how they could fight and die in order to stop anyone from striking the banner of national dignity. [applause]

We do not accept foreign formulas regarding Paraguayan matters, because they are Paraguayan and they will be resolved by Paraguayans. Here we do what the people want us to do, and no one can ignore the fact that these people were born ready for freedom and they have never imported liberators. [applause] Paraguay outlines its own paths, in accordance with its history and its ideals, without subjugation, which humiliates, and without domination, which degrades.

We contribute to America with our reality of peace and a deep faith in the cause of solidarity between brother countries. At the United Nations, the OAS, and all international forums we clearly and firmly defend the values of Western and Christian civilization. We do not hesitate nor are we ambiguous in our language when facing the challenge of extremist ideologies.

The Yacyreta Dam project continues, and up to 31 December 1985 $134 million had been paid out for the main civil engineering works and $65 million for equipment and other construction work. There are more than 1,500 Paraguayans working there, including professionals, technicians, and workers. We continue with the firm purpose of achieving the construction of the soybean railway, which will significantly influence national development.

The visit of two distinguished representatives from the British Government, Sir Anthony Acland, permanent under secretary of state of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and chief of the Diplomatic Service, and Mrs Peggy Fenner, parliamentary minister for agriculture, fisheries, and food [title as heard], was very encouraging from the viewpoint of cooperation for development. The visit of more than 30 businessmen belonging to the Trade Advisory Group for Latin America of the British Directorate for Foreign Trade was an eloquent testimony of the interest there is in our country, which is in an optimum position to receive investment.

In September 1982, when I accepted the presidential candidacy that had been offered me by the people of the Colorado Party, I said that I would assume that responsibility because I believed that I could not fail when counting on the support of the great majority. I did not fail, and I will not fail because of this popular support and because of my passion for wanting an ever greater and stronger Paraguay. [applause] The government, the people, and the glorious Armed Forces are immutably united, and they will not hesitate to take quick action against the enemies of our peace, of our democracy, and of our state of law. Our motto is simple: Neither a strong hand nor weakness, but firmness. [applause] Firmness to defend the law, firmness to protect human rights. We are not going to lower our guard when facing the threat of foreign ideas. And national dignity will not give an inch when facing foreign attempts to interfere in the affairs that are of the exclusive concern of the Republic of Paraguay.

The 14th and 15th of May 1986 will be the 175th anniversary of the right that was won by our people to be the architects of their own destiny. It is an honor for me, from within the constitutional government, to be the standard bearer of a historic cause, that of one of the most powerful and oldest political organizations in America and the world, of a party that will be 100 years old on 11 September 1987. It has been 100 years of loyalty to the Paraguayan people, 100 years of enhancing the law, freedom, justic, and democracy. The great, unbeatable, and glorious Colorado Party is the bastion of more than 1 million Paraguayans who are proud to be Colorados, working for the good of the fatherland and maintaining the moral standards that give prestige to humanity.

There will be more progress in all sectors. It is my hope that Congress will continue to give the nation valuable legal instruments that are the fruit of the responsible discussion of ideas. I recommend that all Paraguayans increase production and work with more creativity. Peace poses a challenge to those who want and must build. I therefore urge businessmen to design and implement more projects that would bring socioeconomic benefits.

The government cannot be expected to do everything. Conditions are excellent for creating new jobs and for promoting transportation, bearing in mind everyone's personal interests but remembering that the good of the country comes first. [applause] Our peaceful revolution will vigorously move forward to victory with the enthusiasm and the work of the Colorado Party and with the efforts of all well-meaning fellow countrymen of other political parties and of all well-meaning foreigners. [applause] This will be a victory for those who are good and just. We are at peace with our own consciences, because we have devoted ourselves to working for the well-being and progress of the great Paraguayan family.

On 18 March 1986 the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO carried a front-page story under a big headline reading: Pope Warns Priests That the Church Should Not Engage in Politics. In a Holy Week message addressed to all priests, Pope John Paul II warned those who mix their work with political activities. The pope condemned the attempt to turn priests into laymen and stressed that priests should limit themselves to preaching the word of God. Some excerpts of the pope's message were released on 31 March in the Vatican, 2 days after the end of a meeting between the pope and the Brazilian bishops. The participation of priests in political and labor matters was also discussed during this meeting. This message from the pope must be respected. We demand respect for this message in Paraguay. And I will make no further comment.... [applause] because our people are intelligent, and a word to the wise is sufficient. [applause] They will realize about whom I am talking, and they will realize to whom this message should apply.

We did not lack energy in war to defend the fatherland's sovereignty, and neither will we lack energy in peace to continue to strengthen the nation's prosperity. Our people will always be thankful for peace, for the freedom that it grants, for the happiness that it inspires, and for the progress that it offers. We assure that the time of dictatorship will not return, that the barbarian times of the massacre of workers in Puerto Pinasco, the slaying of soldiers at the Coronel Martinez Fort, and the slaying of students on 23 October 1931 will not return. The agents of discord have been sidelined. Slayings and massacres were normal in the past. However, some individuals have made a great to-do, have pretended to be scandalized, and have reached for support from the international press because of an insignificant event in which there were neither deaths nor injuries.

We are creating democracy, we do not engage in cheap rhetoric. The people are in the forefront. We will continue to work with the people and for the people. We are strongly motivated to continue improving, because we have the appreciation and the affection of the great Paraguayan people. [applause]

Honorable members of Congress: On opening this new legislative period, it is my wish that the deliberations of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies will take a wise course. I reiterate my faith in the bright destiny of the Republic of Paraguay. [applause]

Asks Aides To Be Firm

PY021730 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Impromptu speech by President Alfredo Stroessner to ministers, officers, and Chief Justice Luis Maria Argana, who greeted him in his office at Government Palace after his speech to Congress on 1 April -- recorded]

[Text] I feel honored by your presence in my office after I delivered my message to Congress.

All of you know that there is a great deal of truth in what I said. I have often heard people say that the truth is always best, no matter how bitter. Thus, I told the truth so that the same mistakes will not be repeated.

We are part of a government that is doing things, and I will not repeat what I have said. We are doing things in all areas. I urge each one of you, individually, to do his best. A good man is not one who does not do anything evil, but one who exerts himself to do things better. I believe that all of us are under the obligation to live up to this ideal. And we are doing so, justifying ourselves before the people who support us. The people are in the vanguard, and the country is making continuous progress. I have told the truth, and we must remember it so that the same mistakes are not repeated in our country.

I mentioned some anecdotes referred to in the memoirs of Msgr Bogarin, the old Msgr Bogarin. These memoirs are very good, especially when they say that mistrust and chicken soup do not hurt anyone. Many things in these memoirs are true.

Now, perhaps I am the oldest among you...Minister Barrientos is looking at me very seriously...[laughter] because he is a few years older. I don't know who is older. No one wants to grow old. People want only to speak of being younger.

The years in which we are now living are very interesting, because democracy is a reality here. Some attempts are being made to attack this democracy, but they will not affect us. They will affect only those who make such attempts. I am referring to those senators and deputies of the opposition who were absent, violating the Constitution, which orders that we, they and I, be present in Congress. They are in serious error. I believe they will mend their ways.

Our party, the great Colorado Party, is very big. We have seen the people...there is our friend Aquino [president of Colorado Party Chapter No. 14 in the Chacarita neighborhood of Asuncion who in the past led repressive actions at the Catholic University]. He likes to be told that he is from the Chacarita. He is the moderator who keeps order at the Catholic University. [laughter] Isn't it remarkable? A moderator is one who acts... and we will still need him...but not yet. We have a firm government, a fine Armed Forces, a great Colorado Party... and we are not mentioning the Urban Guard [Colorado Party militia that acted as evening street patrols during the 1947 civil war] but we have good reserves....

We must not act with weakness, because the brazenness of the opposition will go only as far as our weakness allows it go go. So the opposition will test us, but it will come to realize that we stand firm. We will be neither weak nor hard, but firm. I was told this over Holy Week, when I have made it a habit to visit churches. This time I visited 11 churches, although according to tradition only 7 churches need to be visited. I visited Father Marino Leon at the Christ the King Church, who saw action against the reds in Spain, and he continues to hold to that line. I asked him: Are you holding firm to the same position, or have you turned to Filipillo [Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez] and the likes? He told me: No, I am always firm... because firmness is beautiful.

I am asking you to be firm, because there are some who are ready to move across the line, believing that the ship is leaking. If there is a hole in the ship, we will plug it. Have no doubt about this. [laughter] There are some who are deserting the ship, even without pressure. This is why the last time you gathered in my office I told you that I expected a minimum of deserters if there were an emergency, and you looked at one another. [laughter] Then some asked me why I said that. This is the way it is, and we have seen it: The weak succumb. We may yet have some surprises when some from our ranks bolt to the other side. This is sure to happen. We cannot have coffee and cream, it has to be either coffee or cream. We must be firm here.

I thank you very much and will not talk about what the pope says, that the church is not a political institution. This has been reported in the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, and it seemed interesting to me, but I will not comment on it because the Paraguayan people are intelligent enough to know what it refers to. I have already made references, and the people know. I need not give you names, because you know them as well, or perhaps better, than I.

I thank you very much for your comments, Dr Argana and General Rodriguez. [applause]

PLR ASKS FOR GREATER POLITICAL OPENING

PY020357 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 12

[Text] In a communique the Liberal Radical Party [PLR] states that one cannot think of true coexistence among the various political parties in the country insofar as these political parties barely coexist within a framework of restructed freedoms and asks for a greater political opening in order to implement the effectiveness of democracy in Paraguay.

Such a stand was announced by the PLR executive board when it recommended that the congressmen representing the PLR not attend the protocol ceremony opening the legislative sessions this morning.

In its communique, the PLR asks that corruption be eradicated and that concrete measures be taken to put the state's finances on a sound footing.

After asking for the recovery of the national economy, the PLR also criticized the continuous disregard "of the basic right of the citizens' freedom," recalling, among other things, the unending state of siege, the implementation of repressive and unconstitutional laws, and the existence of "famine and misery among the population as a result of speculation protected or tolerated by the government."

The PLR states that under "such circumstances one cannot think of true coexistence when the various trends within the national political specturm barely coexist" and concludes by asking that the public administration be put on a sound footing and that the citizens' socioeconomic levels be restored within a framework of political opening." [quotation marks as published]

COLORADO PARTY RESPONDS TO 'GROUP OF 34'

PY021919 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 8

[Excerpts] The Colorado Party Executive Board has officially released a note in response to [a petition by] the "Group of 34," telling the signatories that according to a resolution made on 12 March, the Colorado Party has decided to create a special commission to receive the "founding document of the National Republican Association (Colorado Party) on a day and time that will be set in due time."

The note, which is dated 17 March and is signed by Chairman Dr Juan Ramon Chaves and Political Secretary Mario Abdo Benitez, states the following: "I am pleased to address you, and through you the other signatories of the note sent to us on 3 February 1986, in order to inform you that in a session held on 12 March, the Colorado Party Executive Board decided unanomously to approve your decision to cooperate with the party Executive Board."

"I emphasize the fact that" -- the note which is addressed to Dr Edgar L. Ynsfran, continues -- "the fellow party members who have signed the note have in the past held positions that have given brilliance to our powerful political association."

"We agree with the fact that on the verge of our party's 100th anniversary all Colorado Party members must be united, in action and in thinking, to mark such an auspicious event," the note adds.

"With a brotherly greeting, faithfully yours," concludes the note, which is signed by Chaves and Abdo Benitez.

POLITICAL PARTIES CRTICIZE OIL CONTRACTS

PY022314 Paris AFP in Spanish 1951 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 1 Apr (AFP) -- The opposition party Popular Action [AP] today charged that the recent contracts signed between the current nationalistic Peruvian Government and the Occidental Petroleum Company to continue with the latter's oil operations in the Amazon jungle are very harmful to Peru. In a written declaration, which experts believe may start a controversy, the AP revealed that since the end of 1984 the U.S. oil company has been trying to sign a new agreement because it foresaw the drop of oil prices. The AP government at that time avoided signing any change in the contract conditions valid then, the AP statement signed by AP General Secretary Senator Sandro Mariategui says.

Another opposition party, the Popular Christian Party [PPC] also issued a similar declaration terming the government's behavior on the oil issue as wrong and inappropriate. The declaration of the AP, party of former President Fernando Belaunde Terry, who passed the Presidency to the young social democrat ruler and leader of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party [APRA] Alan Garcia on 28 July, thoroughly analyzes four issues raised by Garcia last August, when he stated his intention to terminate the contracts with the Occidental Petroleum Co.

The four issues are: the elimination of incentives to investments, the return of 441 billion soles ($41.5 million) and more than 3 million barrels of oil for alleged nonpayment of taxes in 1985, the reinstatement of a 68.5-percent tax previously reduced to 41.1 percent, and the recovery of $267.5 million, which Occidental will invest only in prospecting.

The AP declaration states that regarding the recovery of $267.5 million, the government will actually benefit with $284 million with the $3.30 surcharge per barrel it has obtained. The amount of money would be even greater if the proven reserves calculated by the U.S. company amount to more than 86 million barrels. The AP and PPC reproach the government for not having issued an oil law before signing the agreements and for not having taken into consideration the criticisms by the political parties of the oil contract projects. The PPC believes that the responsibility for the signed contracts falls exclusively on Mines and Energy Minister Wilfredo Huayta and the Council of Ministers. The PPC states that the president of the Republic is not responsible for this because of constitutional regulations, and the opposition political parties cannot be blamed either for what has been done or what has not been done.

GARCIA ON DISMISSAL OF IMF REPRESENTATIVE

PY030132 Paris AFP in Spanish 2249 GMT 2 Apr 86

[excerpt] Lima, 2 Apr (AFP) -- President Alan Garcia today clarified that the withdrawal of Valmar de Moraes, the IMF's representative in Peru, is due to the fact that his contract with the government has come to an end. Prime Minister and Economy Minister Luis Alva Castro announced last night that Moraes' mission in Lima had been terminated. Moraes is currently in Washington, but he had an office in the Central Reserve Bank (a money-issuing organization). The president stated that the presence of the IMF representative was due to a contract that had been signed between that organization and the Peruvian Government. This contract has now come to an end, and it will not be renewed, he added. Garcia also stated that this measure guarantees our independence if we are faced with any foreign interference or participation in our economy or with any attempt to supervise it.

WAGNER DISCUSSES RESTRICTING ARMS EXPENDITURES

PY021505 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The first graduate from the diplomacy academy to reach the post of foreign relations minister, Alan Wagner today dedicated this institution's academic term. In his 1-hour speech, Minister Garcia said that Peruvian foreign policy is based on four principles: nationalism, anti-imperialism, integration, and nonalignment. He also affirmed that Peru is deeply committed to Latin America. After the ceremony, the minister announced the next meeting of the Chilean and Peruvian military chiefs.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter, in progress]...the next meeting of military chiefs here in Lima?

[Wagner] We believe it is very important. I have already held talks on two occasions at the political and diplomatic levels with the Chilean foreign minister, during which we established the general guidelines for a series of talks on restricting weapons expenditures. It is now time to start talks at the technical level. This means that the Armed Forces of our countries, with the aid of diplomats, will start discussing the details of this process to restrict military expenditures. Of course, this submect must not be limited only to Peru and Chile. It must try gradually to include all the countries of the region so as to reach a regional agreement on restricting weapons expenditures, as proposed by President Alan Garcia last 28 July. [end recording]

WAR MINISTER ON OPERATIONS AGAINST SHINING PATH

PY030235 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 1 Apr (AFP) -- War Minister General Jorge Flores today stated that the blows that the Peruvian Armed Forces and police have made against the subversive activities of the Shining Path have caused a notable decrease in that organization's activities in the departments of Ayacucho, Huancavelica and Apurimac. After a meeting with President Alan Garcia at Government House, Torres stated that in the emergency zone, which is the center of Maoist insurrection, the forces of order recently captured two subversive groups, one with 16 members and the other with 20.

The minister also stated that due to the pressure that is being applied, the terrorists have fled toward the provinces of Melgar and Azangaro and in lesser numbers toward the provinces of Pasco, Otuzco, Huamachuco and others located in the northern part of the country. The police have the situation under control in those places, he added. He said that in Lima, military and police uniforms and weapons that were in the possession of the terrorists have been confiscated. I believe that the extension of the state of emergency in the capital will permit us to capture more terrorists, he added.

He also stated that the Joint Command of the Armed Forces is evaluating the situation in Puno, where there are conflicts over land. The conflicts are being fuelled by the Shining Path. The Joint Command will submit its report to the cabinet so that it can decide whether to implement the state of emergency in that department, he said.

PRESIDENT RESHUFFLES CABINET, NAMES NEW MINISTERS

PY021709 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1624 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Apr (EFE) -- Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today overcame his first government crisis by appointing new Interior and Industry and Energy ministers and by creating a tourism ministry. The cabinet resigned last Monday en bloc after an interparty agreement was signed between the ruling Colorado Party, and the opposition National Party and the Broad Front.

Both opposition political parties refused the government's invitation to join the cabinet, but they signed a congress agreement to approve about 40 laws related to the economic and social development of the country.

Sanguinetti accepted the resignation of Interior Minister Carlos Manini Rios and named in his place Antonio Marchesano, former president of the chamber of deputies. The president also replaced Industry Minister Carlos Piran with Jorge Presno, a lawyer who was industry minister in 1973 but who resigned on 27 June of the same year when the coup d'etat took place. The new Uruguayan cabinet, which has had its first reshuffle 13 months after the restoration of democracy, is comprised of the following persons:

Minister of agriculture and fishing: Roberto Vazquez Platero.
Minister of national defense: Juan Vicente Chiarino
Minister of economy and finance: Ricardo Zerbino
Minister of industry and energy: Jorge Presno
Minister of interior: Antonio Marchesano
Minister of labor and social welfare: Hugo Fernandez Faingold
Minister of transportation and public works: Jorge Sanguinetti
Minister of education and culture: Adela Reta
Minister of foreign affairs: Enrique Iglesias
Minister of public health: Raul Ugarte
Minister of tourism: Alfredo Silvera Lima

PARTIES SIGN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT

PY020031 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2154 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Apr (EFE) -- The leaders of the Uruguayan political parties today signed a congressional agreement to promote the country's economic and social development. The document, the result of several months of negotiations among the Colorado Party, the ruling party, the Blanco Party, the leading opposition party, the left-wing coalition Broad Front, and the Christian socialist Civic Union party elaborates on the 40 laws and 100 governmental resolutions that will be approved to promote the country's medium- and long-term development. The agreement underwent some last-minute changes after the negotiators consulted the executive boards of each party.

The opposition leaders said that "the agreement lacks the expected depth," but that it will permit the activation of legislative activities. The parties committed themselves in the document to continue searching for new formulas for reaching a consensus. After the agreement was signed, President Julio Maria Sanguinetti held meetings to reshuffle his cabinet. The cabinet ministers resigned en masse on Monday to facilitate the formation of a new cabinet. Reliable sources have stated that the president would replace only two ministers and that a third would take over the newly-created Communications and Tourism Ministry, which was established in the agreement.

ENERGY MINISTER CONFIDENT ABOUT OPEC AGREEMENT

PA021922 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Despite the intense crisis affecting OPEC, Venezuela is confident that possible agreements on the production ceilings will be achieved in the next meeting on 15 April, Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, Venezuelan energy and mines minister and OPEC president, has said.

The fall in petroleum prices has led to uncertainty in the country, and there are even sectors who place all the blame on the current administration. The energy and mines minister has categorically rejected such a position, staging that President Lusinchi's government has had to pay a foreign debt that was not its own and that the petroleum crisis comes from previous years.

[Begin recording] The decision to take the prices to $36 was my decision. It was a decision adopted by Venezuela under the Jaime Lusinchi government. It was a decision of previous administrations. Those have been the factors in this situation. There have been additional factors such as the behavior of OPEC members. One does not know the reason, but one could state, even though one does not want to say so, that it might be due to political motives. [end recording]

Regarding an OPEC minister's request in the last assembly for the removal of Hernandez Grisanti as president of the organization, the energy and mines minister said that these were maneuvers that unfortunately are directed from Venezuela and that are of great concern.

[Begin recording, in progress] ...Venezuelan was on Sunday, the 16th, when the conference opened in Geneva and he was in contact with OPEC ministers. I say this very responsibly. I think it is absurd to be prowling around the conference, interfering with Venezuela's official representation. [end recording]

AD Gives Vote of Confidence

PA030018 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and CEN [National Executive Committee] members of the Democractic Action Party [AD] met today at La Casona and learned about the negotiations carried out by Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti with OPEC. Not until Friday, however, will the national government fix its position and outline its strategy regarding the resumption of the OPEC conference slated for 15 April.

During the AD meeting, the oil movement's crisis was reviewed and Minister Hernandez was given a vote of confidence. His representation was regarded as patriotic and in accordance with Venezuela's economic interests. Opposition spokesmen have criticized his efforts, AD Secretary General Manuel Penalver said.

[Begin recording] The difficulties in OPEC caused by the oil price drop are serious. We feel, however, that this situation will be overcome. The AD government and our Companero Hernandez Grisanti, current OPEC president, will make all possible efforts so that this situation can be solved. [end recording]

Minutes later Minister Hernandez, leading speaker during the meeting, discussed some newspapers' concern over the announcement that certain countries, such as the United States and the United Arab Emirates, had foretold a crude oil price drop, a fact most worrisome in moments of energy crisis, such as the current one. He said that certain leading figures in the oil world have expressed their personal views and that no one can foretell the oil price levels at a given time. Because of this, it is urgent, now more than ever, to reach an agreement to return the situation to normal in OPEC. Venezuela, in turn, is aware of the crisis, yet feels optimistic regarding the future.

[Begin recording] It is evident that if oil prices drop to a very low level and remain there throughout the year, the country will face problems. We must make a joint effort with the resources we have at hand in other fields so that our country suffers as little as possible. Nevertheless, a country that depends to such an extent on such a revenue will surely have to make some sacrifice when its main financial and fiscal source of revenue has been affected by a market situation such as the one we are experiencing. [end recording]

During this week the energy and mines minister will meet with President Lusinchi to further establish Venezuela's position at the next OPEC ministers' meeting. He will then report to the AD's CEN about the results of the meeting.

FISHING AGREEMENT WITH TRINIDAD-TOBAGO RATIFIED

FL012356 Bridgetown CANA in English 2337 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 1, CANA -- The Venezuelan Congress today ratified a fishing agreement signed with Trinidad and Tobago last November, the government here said.

Under the agreement, fishermen of the two countries have the right to use areas of their territorial waters.

They must also offer 50 per cent of their catch to the other nation.

Trinidad and Tobago External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir said tonight that the agreement will enter force as soon as the exchange of diplomatic notes takes place.

Last week, under provisional agreement by the Venezuelan authorities, local fishermen received 50 of the 60 permits provided for use of the Venezuelan waters.

BRIEFS

PROVEN OIL RESERVES -- Venezuela's proven oil reserves amount to 29 billion barrels. This is an 11-billion-barrel increase over the amount in 1976, when the industry was nationalized. Carlos Vogeler Rincones, a member of the Petroven [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] directorate, has reported that this increase was possible due to the intense exploration that was carried out by the national petroleum industry. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p D1 PA]

NAVY SECRETARY ON READINESS, U.S. RECOGNITION

PA021955 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 26 Mar 86 p 5

[By Rodrigo Huerta]

[Text] Acapulco, Gro., 25 Mar -- Navy Secretary Admiral Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega has said that "Mexico does not expect an attack," but he explained that if necessary the Mexican armada is prepared to defend the nation's integrity. The Navy secretary reviewed the troops of the 18th Naval Military Zone, headed by Rear Admiral Rodrigo del Peon Alvarez.

Meanwhile, Gomez Ortega said that there are problems in getting the United States to recognize Mexico's 200 miles of territorial waters, although they have been internationally recognized. Gomez Ortega said that international drug trafficking has developed "in a terrible manner" by air, sea, and land, and it is necessary, he said, to combat like a "cancer." He said that the armada has carried out intense vigilance in the Caribbean zone, the Yucatan Channel, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Gomez Ortega denied that Mexican political and financial personalities are involve in drug trafficking. "There is no such thing, and it is objectionable to have our officials referred to in that manner," he added.

Finally, he said that despite the economic crisis the country is facing, "the social and political sectors have not been affected because the people are united around President Miguel de la Madrid."

EDITORIAL BACKS NICARAGUA ON BORDER PROBLEM

PA021952 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 31 Mar 86 p 6A

[Editorial: "The Sandinists' Offer"]

[Text] In Washington the obstacles to channelling financial aid to the anti-Sandinist mercenaries operating out of Honduras are being removed with difficulty. In Nicaragua, President Daniel Ortega has expressed his willingness to enter into talks with Ronald Reagan -- "the chief of the contras" -- and even to reach an agreement on the withdrawal of foreign advisers from Central America.

In effect, the Sandinist leader's statement is a new warning regarding the illicit nature of the counterrevolutionary forces which are staffed largely by former Somozist guardsmen and his refusal to enter into dialogue with them. He offers in exchange to hold talks with the United States, aware that that country has made the resumption of political and diplomatic efforts with Managua conditional on its recognition of the contras as a legitimate opposition force.

In the meantime, military tension in the area is growing. Daniel Ortega has pointed understandably to new elements of concern: the presence of U.S. advisers, the utilization of U.S. helicopters, and efforts to involve Honduras in a direct confrontation with Nicaragua. By repeating his opinion that the move is in effect a "Vietnamization" of the Central American conflict, he also makes the possible outcome of the recent developments very clear.

Ortega insists he is not lying. There have been clashes between the Sandinists and contras for years, and all have taken place in the area bordering with Honduras.

The difference is that this time the problem arose as the U.S. Congress was ready to vote on aid for the mercenaries, and it was used as a propaganda ploy, Ortega maintains. Honduras' ambiguity thus far seems to prove him right.

SOVIET DELEGATION TO PROMOTE NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

FL030202 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2350 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Avgust Voss, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, arrived today to participate in the 75th interparliamentary meeting.

Voss said his country will promote an end to nuclear weapons at the meeting. He said the Soviet Union's position is to continue the nuclear moratorium even though the deadline was 31 March and the United States intends to continue nuclear testing. Voss said the Soviet Union will propose a new option to the current U.S. Administration to discuss nuclear disarmament and preserve humanity.

In reference to the conflict between Libya and the United States, the Soviet diplomat said this confrontation is a pretext for the U.S. Government to punish Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Finally, Voss said that every country wants an end to the arms race and the Soviet Union will maintain its position on a nuclear moratorium until U.S. President Ronald Reagan demonstrates a reasonable attitude to preserve peace.

OIL CRISIS, RECESSION AFFECT BALANCE OF TRADE

PA021355 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 Mar 86 pp 1, 13

[By Luis Acevedo Pesquera]

[Text] The surplus in Mexico's balance of trade dropped 35 percent as a result of the "delay in the adjustment of oil prices," and the policy of recession which, despite its positive effect of reducing imports by 4 percent, also arrested industrial output.

This is stated in a report issued by the Mexican Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development and the Bank of Mexico which adds that although in January Mexico's trade balance showed a surplus of $438 million, the difference between foreign exchange revenues and expenditure is slim, estimating that a "substantial reduction in the balance of trade surplus predicted for 1986 -- $8.5 billion -- will continue to take place. [quotation marks as published]

According to official data on foreign trade activities in January, Mexican exports totaled $1.531 billion, a 16 percent reduction, while imports were $1.92 billion, the lowest level recorded over the past several months.

The fall on exports was mainly due to the decrease in the volume and price of crude, the sales of which decreased 32 percent, totaling only $736 million. The sale of oil byproducts also dropped 44 percent, for a total of $62 million. However, in contrast to this "terrible decrease in revenues" from the oil sector, non-oil exports increased 25 percent, up from the $585 million obtained in 1985 to $733 million, partially compensating for the drop in foreign exchange revenue.

Financing imports with non-oil exports rose from 51 percent in January 1985 to 67 percent in the same month of this year. This was largely the result of the policy of recession which has placed maximum controls on the domestic market.

The Commerce Secretariat's report indicates that as a result of the oil market's chaotic situation, prices have dropped, "causing serious upsets to the country's balance of trade position."

In addition, it adds, "the delay in adjusting the prices of Mexico's principal export product resulted in a failure to place a portion of our oil exports on the market in January, further affecting the fall of foreign exchange revenues."

Non-oil exports, according to various areas of activity, recorded their highest increase in the primary sector, which increased 59 percent relative to January 1985 for a total of $202 million. Within this sector, the manufacturing sector rose 5 percent, from $510 million to $536 million. The only non-oil sector that recorded lower export rates was mining, decreasing from $34 million to $29 million, a 15 percent rate variation.

In this context, the products that most helped maintain a positive balance of trade in the primary sector were coffee, the value of which rose 131 percent, followed by tomatoes, vegetables, cattle, and cotton. The price of vegetables decreased 19 percent in January.

In the mining sector, the main foreign sales were sulphur, unprocessed copper, gypsum, feldspar, and mineral zinc. The price of gypsum rose 188, while copper prices dropped 58 percent.

In the manufacturing sector, the largest share of foreign exchange revenue came from automobile engine sales, frozen shrimp, automobile spare parts, silver ingots, and polycarboxylics.

With regard to imports, which in January totalled $1.92 billion, the report by the Commerce Secretariat and the Bank of Mexico indicates that the largest foreign exchange drain was recorded by the manufacturing sector, which made purchases for $992 million, 81 percent of all foreign purchases.

In the primary sector, purchases were $77 million, 7 percent of total imports. The mining sector made purchases for $14 million, 2 percent of the total. Compared with January 1985, the manufacturing sector grew 2 percent, while the primary sector's activities decreased 48 percent. Mining decreased 24 percent.

The products most imported in January for use by the primary sector were corn, cattle, skins and unprocessed leather, rubber, and seeds.

In the mining sector the major items purchased were phosphorite, calcium phosphate, non-ferrous metals, siliceous sands, solid fuels, and pewter minerals.

Outstanding in the manufacturing sector were butane and liquid purchases -- totaling $43.5 million -- material to assemble automobiles, parts and spare parts for electrical installations, data processing machines, and mixtures for industrial use.

Breaking goods down into their different classifications, consumer goods imports rose 3 percent for a total of $86 million; import of intermediate goods dropped 12 percent for a total of $726 million, and capital goods imports increased to $280 million, a 21 percent hike from last year. The share of each of these areas of imports was 8 percent for consumer goods; 66 percent for intermediate goods, and 26 percent for capital goods.

The balance of trade situation has continuously deteriorated since 1983, when it reached $13.8 billion, after recording a total of $6.8 [as published] billion in 1982. In 1984 it was $12.8 billion, and in 1985 it was $8 billion. This represents a reduction of 40 percent. Our authorities estimate the surplus in the trade balance will continue its downward trend in 1986.

Total Trade Balance (in millions of dollars)

	1984	1985	1986	variation percentage	
			January	85/84	86/85
Exports 1	2,201.1	1,813.3	1,530.8	-17.6	- 15.6
Imports 2	643.0	1,143.0	1,093.4	77.8	- 4.4
Balance	1,558.1	670.3	438.4	- 57.0	- 34.6

1. Does not include reevaluations and excludes assembly plants
2. Does not include freight and insurance

Source: Prepared by the Tariffs Directorate of the Secretariat of Commerce and Trade Development, with data of the Bank of Mexico

S&T COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH PANAMA SIGNED

FL021847 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1810 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Governments of the Republic of Panama and Mexico have signed a scientific and technical cooperation agreement aimed at achieving greater social and economic development for the two countries. The Foreign Secretariat announced this through a decree which appeared today in the Official Gazette. The two countries agreed to cooperate in the areas of information, scholarships for degrees and specialization, materials and equipment, as well as in joint projects of scientific and technological development, and in organizing seminars, conferences and expositions. Likewise, a joint commission of scientific and technological cooperation between Mexico and Panama was established. The commission will meet every 2 years to discuss the appropriate actions. For Mexico, the Foreign Secretariat will be responsible for carrying out the cooperation and in Panama it will be the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy.

AMBASSADOR TO UN ON NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, OIL

FL021142 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0408 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 1 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico will struggle for a new international economic order inasmuch as it believes it is the only way to solve the financial problems problems affecting poor nations, Mario Moya Palencia, our country's ambassador to the United Nations, stressed today. Upon arrival here from New York, the Mexican ambassador said the fall of oil prices places developing countries in a serious situation; that is, facing a world economic crisis and the impossibility of resolving their financial commitments. For this reason, he stressed, the establishment of a new world economic order which will make possible a better development of the so-called Third World nations can no longer be delayed. Speaking about the oil situation in Mexico, Moya Palencia stated that despite the fall of oil prices throughout the world, the oil industry is still profitable for Mexico because production costs are low. Likewise, he rejected the possibility that the price of oil will drop to $5 per barrel as has been predicted by Kuwait.

AGREEMENT ENDS MONTH-LONG DOCTORS' STRIKE

PA021821 Panama City Circuito PRC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen: An agreement was signed a few minutes ago at the El Panama Hotel ending the doctors' strike. Medical services will be normal as of tomorrow.

This is a last-minute report to the effect that the national government and the doctors have reached a joint agreement settling the national doctors' strike that lasted over 30 days. As of tomorrow, all doctors will be going back to work.

DELVALLE MEETS WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL IN U.S.

PA292054 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today to discuss the Central American situation and the Latin American foreign debt, a UN spokesman has reported.

Delvalle is making his first visit to the United Nations, and he took advantage of the occasion to exchange opinions with the secretary general on the Contadora Group's activities.

President Delvalle should be returning to Panama this weekend.

COSTA RICA

EDITORIAL PRAISES REAGAN'S PERSEVERANCE

PA021318 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 10

[Editorial: "Reagan Does Not Give Up"]

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives has again stopped the initiatives of President Reagan on the Sandinist conflict.

A setback such as this could have made other rulers give up their democratic efforts. After all, lack of understanding is always discouraging. But President Reagan is not the kind of man who is easily cowed.

The U.S. President believes that his word and his perseverance can be used as tools to win over the indifference of his people toward the tragedies being endured by friendly nations. His opinion is not groundless. Grenada, Haiti, and the Philippines are clear and recent evidence of this.

Both rightist and leftist dictatorships have had to yield in the face of the democratic thrust that Ronald Reagan has insisted on as part of the international behavior of the United States. It is evident that the President is a man who wants to demonstrate that his country's international leadership aims at achieving the liberty of nations and not U.S. supremacy in an hegemonic struggle. Reagan apparently believes that tyrants, regardless of whether they are communists or friends of the United States, must fall.

President Reagan's position and perseverance have done much harm to the Nicaraguan dictators, but more harm has been caused by the democratic push that the U.S. President has turned into a characteristic of his nation.

The alleged U.S. aggression and the clear U.S. animosity toward the Managua regime are not just a result of the East-West struggle. The U.S. animosity is a product of a democratic vocation that leads to solidarity with a people who, like the Nicaraguan people, have been betrayed by a revolution and live under the oppression of a dictatorship.

Acting according to his position, President Reagan has said that he is not giving up. His strategy now is to have the U.S. Senate approve his request for $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, even if this aid is conditioned to a 90-day waiting period during which an attempt for a peaceful solution should be made before the aid can be distributed. If he wins in the Senate, the door will be open for a reconsideration, by the House in mid-April.

The Sandinist strategy in Nicaragua is in line with a plan of world communism. While they gain time for domestic repression to strengthen the dictatorship, the commanders speak of peaceful solutions. Facts, however, have shown that their decision is against such a solution. They speak empty words.

So long as the pressure exerted by democratic countries remains empty words, so too will the commanders be able to continue exerting their repression and consolidating the first communist regime in continental America.

Since President Reagan's defeat [in the House] was narrow, with 222 votes against and 210 in favor, there is still hope that finally the U.S. people will soon understand their obligations to the Nicaraguan people and their liberation.

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR ON AREA ISSUES, CONTRA AID

PA021300 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Interview with Francisco Tenorio Mora, Nicaraguan ambassador to El Salvador, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Tell us, Mr Mora, what is Nicaragua's view of the recently approved -- and much publicized -- $100 million appropriation by the U.S. Congress? [as heard]

[Tenorio] We think that the U.S. Congress seems inclined to support President Reagan's warmongering policy. The problem is not the approval of the $100 million; we think this involves a more tense and critical situation; the involvement of U.S. troops and means to support the counterrevolutionary forces in Honduras, as we saw during Holy Week.

[Reporter] Please tell us what reaction has Nicaragua observed in the other nations of the world concerning this phenomenon of the $100 million appropriation?

[Tenorio] Well, we have seen a Latin-Americanist attitude; all the Latin American countries oppose and reject the aid to the counterrevolution. We have seen how the nonaligned countries have condemned the Reagan administration's support to the counterrevolution. Even the U.S. people have rejected the U.S. maneuvers to directly support the counterrevolution, because this will eventually lead to direct involvement by the United States with U.S. troops in the Central American region. This would provoke a conflict of great proportions, and even though Nicaragua has exerted itself in the search for peace and a negotiated solution, it is also ready to face any military situation that may arise.

[Reporter] What is Nicaragua's view of the efforts of the Contadora Group so far? Have these efforts had any influence on the situation of war which prevails in Nicaragua?

[Tenorio] Contadora is a forum that was created with the intention of avoiding a confrontation between countries in the Central American area and also to avoid an even more demaging [sancionamiento] situation. Contadora has really prevented a war and maintained pressure on the United States. Contadora has a real Latin-Americanist position concerning the situation prevailing in Central America. We think that Contadora has proved its worth with the normalization of diplomatic relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica and the creation of an investigation and control commission for the border zones. This was achieved within the framework of Contadora; consequently, this is a firm and fundamental step taken by Contadora despite the boycott, despite pressures exerted by the United States. The Contadora continues to be the alternative and the means to achieve peace and a negotiated solution in Central America. Therefore, we must continue to support this forum.

[Reporter] What is the Nicaraguan people's opinion about the upcoming meeting between the presidents of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala -- which will be held in this last country and to which Nicaragua has not been invited?

[Tenorio] The Nicaraguan people are clearly aware that all this ... [changes thought] that the omission [of an invitation] to Nicaragua was due to a U.S. maneuver to exert pressure so Nicaragua does not come to Guatemala to attend the meeting -- because this would be an admission of President Ortega's legitimacy. The fact that Nicaragua is being excluded from the meeting means that the United States .... [changes thought] It means that they will not admit that President Ortega was legitimately elected by the people's vote in free elections in Nicaragua. Therefore they will keep Nicaragua out of the meeting in Guatemala as long as they can, because then they will be able to argue that the elections in Nicaragua are not valid and that President Ortega is simply a dictator in Nicaragua -- as they have always stated. However, the most important thing in this case is that the international community and the Central American peoples -- particularly the Nicaraguan people -- are fully convinced and aware of the United States' maneuvers. We are politically and militarily prepared to counter this and, although no one wants to reach the extreme of turning the Central American region into another Vietnam, the Nicaraguan people are aware that they will defend the revolution, rights, sovereignty, and -- above all -- the honor of being Latin Americans and, basically, Central Americans.

DEPUTY SAYS DIALOGUE SHOULD BE MULTIPARTISAN

PA030306 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 25 Mar 86 pp 2, 15

[Text] "Some FDR-FMLN elements can practice buddyism [ser mischeros], but I am my own man," Deputy Rene Fortin Magana has told DIARIO LATINO.

"I know that within their demands regarding constitutional issues, only a few can be granted," Fortin Magana added.

According to Fortin Magana, a former member of Democratic Action, AD, the rebels will have only a small share in the government, because the Constitution places obstacles such as banning them from joining the Salvadoran Army.

Fortin Magana said that President Duarte can no longer speak on behalf of the Salvadoran people but only in his own name, because he had sufficient opportunities to reach an agreement but failed to do so. He has no choice but to allow other sectors representing the people to do their part; in fact, Duarte does not even represent the entire Christian Democratic Party, Fortin Magana said defiantly.

"On my part, I could not be an errand boy for my buddies, because I have my own convictions and lifestyle, and they have their own views," Fortin Magana pointed out.

He said that rebels planning to come to El Salvador to participate in talks with Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas can do just that; however, if they have pending problems with the law, that is another matter.

"A dialogue must be permanently open, but not as a partisan activity involving only the government and the FDR; thus far the government has limited itself; it has revolved around the Christian Democratic Party.

"I believe that the government and Duarte himself have given up representativity. Thus, from now on the dialogue should be a multipartisan problem, Fortin Magana concluded. [quotation marks as published]

ARMED FORCES CONTINUE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS

PA020441 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 1 Apr 86 pp 2, 11

[Text] Operations "Phoenix" and "Lieutenant Ricardo Chavez Carreno" continue on Guazapa Hill and in Chalatenango Department, respectively. Meanwhile, the search and comb operations continue in the Departments of Morazan, San Miguel, La Union, Usulutan, San Vicente, and Cuscatlan and in other areas.

The Armed Forces have continued with operation "Phoenix" on Guazapa Hill and throughout the northern part of San Salvador Department for more than 2 months. Moreover, the Armed Forces have extended their counterinsurgency activities to Suchitoto city, the rural areas of this jurisdiction, Suchitlan Lake, and other areas.

This counterinsurgency military operation is regarded as one of the most successful because the Armed Forces have ended the myth that terrorists could not be forced to withdraw. These have been the comments by Armed Forces spokesmen who have given extensive reports on the operations for the search, location, and destruction of terrorist hideouts.

Regarding operation "Lieutenant Ricardo Chavez Carrero," we were told that this is another of the most important strategies the Armed Forces have had in the past few months.

The rebel groups that were operating with more intensity in southern Chalatenango Department up to the limits of San Salvador Department have been pushed north.

According to the Armed Forces intelligence reports, the rebel groups are trying to regroup in some areas of the country.

In view of this possibility, Army troops are in constant pursuit of subversives' hideouts to foil their plans. The Armed Forces are constantly making appeals to the people in general to report the presence of subversives or suspects.

FMLN CLAIMS 573 ARMY CASUALTIES IN MARCH

PA021337 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] During the month of March we inflicted 573 casualties on Duarte's Army. Of these, 307 were with mines, either against infantry or armored personnel carriers. We repeat, we inflicted 573 casualties on the enemy in March using various types of mines. The 307 mine casualties represent 53 percent of all the casualties inflicted. The total 573 casualties include 5 lieutenants, 2 sublieutenants, 2 lieutenant cadets, 12 sergeants, 2 warrant officers, 11 corporals, 3 radio operators, and a [words indistinct] technician.

During the month of March we carried out nine ambushes that caused 59 casualties. Also during the mouth of March a helicopter was damaged and six military trucks were destroyed. These are the weapons seized from the enemy in March: 58 rifles, an M-79 grenade launcher, 8 handguns, 15,600 rounds of ammunition, 240 ammunition magazines, 11 grenades of various types and a PRC-77 military radio communications set.

During the month of March, the most important sabotage actions against the Duarte government's war economy included a successful national traffic stoppage that lasted 6 days and caused about $9 million dollars in direct losses to the government's war economy. Facilities on 34 coffee farms and 606 manzanas of planted coffee were sabotaged. These 34 coffee farms belonged to wealthy landowners who refused to pay the FMLN-set salary rates during the last coffee harvest. In addition, an energy sut-station in Santa Anita, Usulutan Department and about 150 poles and pylons were destroyed.

Many actions took place in San Salvador and its suburbs. The census and Statistics General Directorate was sabotaged right in downtown San Salvador in broad daylight. Also, four telephone connection boxes [Cajas distribuidoras] were sabotaged in the capital. Other actions occurred in San Salvador and its suburbs, such as San Ramon, Mejicanos, Ayutuxtepeque, Cuscatancingo, and others. An important blow was dealt to the puppet Army in Veracruz in Chalatenango. Also in this department, the Army was worn down. An ambush was sprung in Atiquizaya, Ahuachapan Department, in the country's west. This has been our westernmost ambush so far. Attrition operations against the puppet Army were also executed in Santa Ana Department.

GUATEMALA

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NAMED OAS AMBASSADOR

PA030311 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The Government has appointed former Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran as Guatemala's ambassador to the OAS.

Recently Rodolfo Lobos Zamora -- a former deputy head of state -- was appointed Guatemala's ambassador to Panama.

Andrade Diaz-Duran left for Washington today, Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez has reported.

[Begin recording] Let me tell you what has happened. It happens that the Presidency of the OAS rotates. It is rotated among all the member-countries. Guatemala's turn in the Presidency begins on 1 April. President Cerezo Arevalo decided to send Fernando Andrade as Guatemala's ambassador to the OAS because of the situation in Central America, because the situation could deteriorate, and because it is good that a Central American country has the Presidency of the OAS. For this reason the president decided to put there people with some experience, and this is why the president sent Andrade today as ambassador to the OAS. He is going to assume the Presidency to which Guatemala is entitled at the OAS.

I believe that Andrade will not be there as ambassador very long, maybe 4 or 5 months -- for the duration of the Presidency and for the time he will need for farewell purposes. [end recording]

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS 'PRESSURE" FOR WAR WITH NICARAGUA

PA021930 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1958 GMT 2 Apr 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 2 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government admitted today that it is being pressured by "interested parties" into provoking a war against Nicaragua.

The government of Jose Azcona Hoyo "is aware of pressure by interested parties to spur an armed conflict with Nicaragua, which is the reason it is acting cautiously and with moderation." This was stated in a communique issued by the Foreign Secretariat reporting on the notes exchanged with the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in connection with the confirmation of an incursion by Sandinist troops into Honduran territory.

"The Honduran Government," the note adds, "cannot leave the handling of the situation in foreign or inexpert hands because it is responsible for the well-being and safety of 4 million Hondurans who want to live in peace and democracy."

The Honduran Foreign Secretariat, however, did not identify the national or international parties interested in spurring a military conflict with Nicaragua.

The Honduran Armed Forces insist they have absolute control over the border area where they are clearing the area of any possible small Sandinist contingents that may have been left behind during the withdrawal operation from the national territory.

In addition, it was denied that the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary troops clashed with the Sandinists in Honduran territory or that they have sustained hundreds of casualties.

The Honduran Government's official stand is that there are no armed forces in its territory except for the National Army and that it does accept Nicaraguans and other Central Americans as refugees.

NOTES EXCHANGED WITH NICARAGUA ON BORDER RAID

PA030136 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Apr 86 p 11

[Press release issued by the Foreign Secretariat to publish notes exchanged by the Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments on border incidents; date and place not given]

[Text] Press Release:

The Foreign Relations Secretariat of the Republic of Honduras has seen fit to publish the notes exchanged by the Honduran and Nicaraguan Governments as the result of the recent raid by Sandinist regime members into Honduran territory, a fact duly confirmed and which the Nicaraguan regime denies. The Honduran Government acts soberly and calmly, although it is aware of the demand of some sectors that want an armed conflict with Nicaragua. The Honduran Government cannot leave this situation in foreign or inexperienced hands, because the government is responsible for the welfare and security of 4 million Hondurans who want to live in peace and democracy.

These are the notes mentioned.

Mr Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Nicaraguan foreign minister, Managua, Nicaragua.

Mr Minister: I hereby address Your Excellency to tell you that my government has certain and duly confirmed reports that members of the EPS have raided Honduran territory through the eastern border area, in Olancho Department. We have learned that these members have fired artillery shells and other weapons on Honduran territory. The actions I refer to took place last week and this week. In anticipation of an increase in the armed actions the EPS has unleashed against Honduran territory, the government of the Republic has deployed forces to the sector mentioned, with instructions to protect the population and repel the Nicaraguan troops.

On reporting to Your Excellency about this, the Honduran Government urges the Nicaraguan Government to immediately withdraw the EPS troops from Honduran territory to prevent confrontations that could endanger peace between the two countries and jeopardize the regional pacification efforts sponsored by the Contadora Group. My government feels that the Nicaraguan Government has the unavoidable duty to honor this denunciation made in good faith and with the desire not to aggravate the crisis that Central America has been enduring since the second half of 1979 for reasons well familiar to us all. My government hopes that the Nicaraguan Government will take the pertinent corrective measures and will act in the future in such a manner that the events reported will not be repeated. Yours very truly,

Carlos Lopez Contreras, Honduran foreign secretary
Tegucigalpa, 25 March 1986

Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Republic of Honduras.
No 0168-86
Tegucigalpa, 26 March 1986
Mr Minister:

We have received your note dated today stating that your government has "certain and duly confirmed reports" that members of our Army allegedly raided Honduran territory through Olancho Department. Mr Minister, your letter has reached us at the time when the U.S. Government is bent on a historical campaign against Nicaragua with the clear purpose of portraying Nicaragua as an aggressor country. In this way, the Reagan administration hopes to secure the U.S. Congress' approval of a request for $100 million more to continue murdering our people from CIA mercenary bases in Honduran territory. Ironically, it is those who attack our people, violate our sovereignty, plant mines in our ports, shy away from the judgment at the International Court of Justice and publicly request funds for more terrorism in Nicaragua who suddenly want to pose as victims.

In this framework of warmongering hysteria of the current U.S. Government, we cannot but stress your letter's calm and responsible tone. On our part, we can assure you that at no time have the strict behavior standards of our Army been changed according to which they must refrain from carrying out raids into Honduran territory, however limited and justified these raids might be, when it comes to confronting the mercenary forces who sow terror in our people. I can assure you that no aggression has occurred in Honduran territory and that our troops are being oriented by the highest military authorities in the area for our troops to abide by our traditional standards of behavior. Finally, Mr Minister, in view of the U. S. insistent policy of introducing more and more tension in the relations between our two nations, Nicaragua has officially asked the Contadora and Support Groups to install immediately a supervision and control commission at the common border so that this commission can see in situ that it is the mercenary army, financed by the United States, that violates Honduras' and Nicaragua's sovereignty and that at no time do our forces constitute a threat to Honduran sovereignty.

Yours very truly,
Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Nicaraguan foreign minister
Danilo Abu Vivas, Nicaraguan ambassador
Tegucigalpa, 1 April 1986
Information and Press Directorate; Honduran Foreign Secretariat

ARMY SOURCE 'CONFIRMED' FMLN 28 MARCH INCURSION

PA021833 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Apr 86

[By Jose Domingo Flores]

[Text] The scoop by this station, the most important station in the country, at noon yesterday has been confirmed. This morning we received a telephone call from an official source of the Honduran Army stating that FMLN guerrillas entered Honduras as far as the area of Los Planes located between Mapulaca and Virginia in Lempira Department. It has been confirmed that the guerrillas stayed approximately 7 hours. During that time, the residents got in touch with the Honduran Army, and troops immediately went there. When the guerrillas learned of the arrival of the troops, they immediately withdrew. There were no clashes because the guerrillas were afraid that they would be hit hard by Honduran Army. In this way, HRN [Voz de Honduras Network] confirms the report about the presence of the FMLN guerrillas in Honduran territory for approximately 7 hours in the area of Los Planes. There were no clashes or casualties between the Honduran troops and the Salvadoran guerrillas. It was confirmed that the Salvadoran guerrillas did enter Honduran territory.

This coincides with what is taking place on the border with Nicaragua. This clearly shows that efforts are being made to carry out a general operation against Honduran territory by the Salvadoran guerrillas and the Nicaraguan EPS. The incursion by FMLN guerrillas took place on Friday.

It has been reported that sometime today the Public Relations Office of the Armed Forces will disclose details of the events on Friday in the area of Los Planes, Lempira Department.

OFFICER ON SANDINIST CLASHES, FMLN INCURSION

PA031317 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Report on interview with Major Jorge Alberto Arguello by reporter Miriam Mercado, date and place not given]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Mercado] It has been reported, Major, that during the past few hours there have been clashes on the eastern border with Nicaragua, specifically in El Paraiso. Could you tell us if Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Carvajal, commander of Task Force 17, is still in Capire, or was he there temporarily?

[Arguello] Well, Miriam, Task Force 17 in Capire is continuing its operation there because the situation has been controlled, but during the past few hours we have confirmed that there have been clashes between Sandinist patrols and Honduran patrols. However, it is also important to inform the Honduran people that they must have confidence in us, that the situation is under control because, as Lt Col Carvajal said on one occasion, the situation favors us to a great extent, and all of the Sandinist patrols are being controlled.

[Mercado] On Wednesday you said that there were Sandinist prisoners. When will they be presented? Also, do you have FMLN prisoners and when will they be presented by the Armed Forces?

[Arguello] In response to the first question, when the time is right the prisoners will be presented to the national and international press. If we capture more prisoners of war, who are also proof of Sandinist penetration in our country, we will present them. [end recording]

[Mercado] This was Major Jose Alberto Arguello, Honduran Armed Forces spokesman, confirming that there are more prisoners and that Task Force 17 troops headed by Commander Danilo Carvajal Molina are still on the border with Nicaragua in El Paraiso Department. Maj Arguello also confirmed that there are no FMLN prisoners of war detained in Honduras. He also says that the border with El Salvador is well guarded.

[Begin recording] [Arguello] Regarding the situation we experienced in Los Planes village, it has been confirmed that this village was occupied by FMLN subversives, in Mapula jurisdiction, Lempira Department. It is also important to confirm thatthe presence of the Honduran Armed Forces forced the subversives to withdraw to their territory.

As I said today at noon on Radio America, this entire situation that has emerged during the past few days, say from 13 March, and the situation of the subversives on the border with El Salvador is caused by one thing. It is the international communist and Sandinist strategy to try to destabilize internal order, the democratic system of the government established in our country, and of course to subvert the tranquillity and peace we enjoy in Honduras. The Honduran people can be sure that its Armed Forces will do everything in their power to maintain our country's tranquillity and, of course, to eliminate these irregularities and situations that damage Honduras' imperial, territorial sovereignty.

[Mercado] Finally, Major, my last question. Are there FMLN prisoners?

[Arguello] I am not aware of any FMLN prisoners thus far. [end recording]

EDITORIAL ON NEED FOR FOREIGN POLICY CHANGE

PA021636 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 6

[Editorial: "The Government Must Review Its Policy on Nicaragua"]

[Text] In light of the recent events on the border with Nicaragua and the subsequent international uproar, it is clear that there is a break between Honduras' foreign policy on Nicaragua and international law.

The matter is extremely delicate and has grave implications for the future. Therefore, the Azcona government must carefully review that policy in view of the threats to our vital interests and the security of the Honduran state.

The very dramatic border incidents due to the constant aggression carried out from our territory by the U.S.-financed and directed contras are turning Honduras into a springboard for a generalized war in Central America.

This Holy Week we have seen how easy it is to orchestrate a "casus belli" to unleash such a conflict. This seems to be the ulterior motive of the contra project which, as everyone knows, including the North Americans, is incapable of being successful against the EPS.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's latest remarks that the Honduran area on the border with Nicaragua is an "occupied territory" give legal form to something that could legitimize Nicaraguan actions in that territory with the argument of the right of self-defense.

Honduran officials who have the capacity to internationally compromise the Honduran state, including the foreign secretary and high-ranking military chiefs, have said that the Honduran Armed Forces do not have the capability to control our territory on the border with Nicaragua. With such statements they have tried to conceal the presence of the contras in our territory.

Also, the annexes to the Honduran-U.S. military treaty are not in force because they have not been approved by the National Congress as our constitution specifically establishes; such statements make totally illegal let us not say only the contra presence in our territory but any U.S. military presence that is permanent and above all linked to the Nicaraguan situation.

An article by Aaron Epstein in the important U.S. newspaper THE MIAMI HERALD reports the opinions of prominent U.S. international laws experts that unquestionably show the false position of the Honduran foreign policy concerning the incursions by the regular Sandinist forces.

For Professor Richard Lillich of the University of Virginia, Nicaragua's attitude "is exactly the same one as that adopted by United States when it went into Cambodia in 1970 and 1971." Professor William Thomas Mallison, director of the international law program of the George Washington University, said the same thing: "We argued that we could enter Cambodia because it was used as a privileged refuge and a base of operations to attack our forces in Vietnam."

More recently, this same principle was used by Israel to enter Lebanon and destroy PLO installations.

On that course we are obviously headed for a warlike escalation. If continued, no one will be able to stop it and it will mainly involve the Hondurans who in no way want to be involved in a war that is not ours.

On the same course, the Honduran Government and its Armed Forces are creating a humiliating and undignified spectable as they make evident to our own people and foreigners that we do not make our own decisions; that we cannot guarantee the security of the Honduran state and leave the field so that a foreign power will be in charge of the national defense.

An editorial in the Sunday [as published; editorial published on 31 March] issue of THE MIAMI HERALD concludes: "Now that the Senate has approved the contra aid, only the House can keep the administration off the slippery slope of military escalation. This disgraceful Honduran hypefest should only redouble the House's resolve to do that."

Look how low we have stooped!

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON ASYLUM SEEKERS

PA030005 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2325 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Communique issued by the Information and Press Office of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat on 2 April -- read by reporter Miriam Mercado]

[Text] In view of local and international news reports that seven persons have sought refuge in the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa, the Foreign Secretariat hereby announces that there is no official report from the Mexican Embassy in Honduras listing the names of these persons.

On the other hand, since there is no persecution taking place against the persons seeking this diplomatic asylum and since the National Congress recently granted a broad amnesty to persons who have committed crimes considered political, the Honduran Government is of the opinion that there is no reason to seek asylum, and therefore there is no reason for issuing safe-conducts so that these persons may leave the country, because they have a perfect right to obtain a regular passport. In any event those at the Mexican Embassy can leave Honduran territory as simple travelers, without the adjective of political exiles.

KISAN REPORTS 6,000 MISKITOS FLEE NICARAGUA

PA020433 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1827 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Unity of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast Peoples [KISAN] Indian rebel organization reported today that 6,000 Miskito Indians from the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast entered Honduras last week fleeing from the Sandinist regime in Managua.

Roger Herman, KISAN spokesman in Tegucigalpa, confirmed that the Miskitos "are fleeing from repression and the Sandinist stubborn attempt to eradicate their customs and to force them to enlist in the military service to fight against other Nicaraguans."

Herman said that the Sandinists arrived in the community of Bilwaskarma north of Puerto Cabezas, to recruit 75 youths, "but the population opposed the repressive measure, and as a result the Sandinists captured 15 and executed them later."

The Miskito spokesman pointed out that once KISAN forces learned about the situation they attacked the Sandinists, forced them to retreat, and caused many casualties, killing and wounding.

According to Herman, several Sandinist soldiers "posed as Red Cross agents and when several of our wounded approached a vehicle in which they could supposedly be tended, they were greeted with bullets; seven of them were killed."

The KISAN spokesman, KISAN meaning united Miskitos, told Honduran reporters that his organization has several bases in Zelaya Department to shelter 4,000 combatants.

He added: "Lately those bases have been attacked by Soviet MI-8 helicopters, and as a result, 27 were killed and others wounded, especially civilians living in the vicinity of those camps."

According to Herman, the continuous Sandinist bombings are the main cause for the exodus of the Miskitos. He claimed to have reports that 6,000 other people are awaiting the appropriate opportunity to seek refuge in Honduras.

The National Commission for Refugees in Honduras and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have neither confirmed nor denied the KISAN report.

Currently there are approximately 35,000 Nicaraguan Indians seeking refuge in Honduras, but only approximately 20,000 of them have sought the official status of refugees. The other 15,000 prefer to stay temporarily sheltered and return to Nicaragua as conditions in their communities warrant.

Roger Herman said that KISAN troops have severe logistics problems, but they manage to fight against the Sandinists with the weapons and ammunition seized from Sandinist casualties.

Commenting on the possibility that the United States might grant $100 million for Nicaraguan anti-Sandinist troops, Herman said: "We have never received U.S. aid to fight the Sandinists, however, we would welcome it should they decide to give us some."

NICARAGUA

EDITORIAL SEES REAGAN REPEATING VIETNAM ERROR

PA021945 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Vietnamization Under Way"]

[Text] President Daniel Ortega's statements that Reagan's Central American and anti-Nicaraguan policies are an effort to Vietnamize the conflict were never as close to the concept or reality than during the past few weeks. In hasty doses and in a desperate manner, Reagan has made us swallow the pill of war to cure American society of the Vietnam syndrome, which could turn out to be much worse than the sickness itself.

The sickness of imperialism, speaking not in a symbolic manner but in the most real language possible, has caused this people's war of independence, which threatens U.S. national security.

With this alteration of history, Reagan boosted his career by getting Congress involved in his stupid war against social progress, carried out with bayonets, cannons, and rockets. With this imperialist vision of the Central American situation, Reagan cannot see the results of the Yankee war against Vietnam as an experience that should be taken into account, but as a starting point toward revenge, forcing analogies between the two situations.

This is why the steps Reagan has taken against Nicaragua demonstrate with almost mathematical precision the repetition of errors seeking to promote the reinforcement of a military decision which, in Reagan's unhealthy opinion, was lacking in Vietnam, causing the U.S. to lose that war. Parallel to this are actions involving the U.S Government in a war that it cannot win with its mercenaries.

To do this, the United States took advantage of the defeat the mercenaries suffered last week in their own hideouts to promote the alarming campaign by reporting an alleged EPS invasion of Honduras, offering the Honduran Government $20 million, giving the mercenaries sophisticated weapons, and transporting Honduran troops to the southern border in U.S. military transport aircraft. In this manner military "advisers" in Honduras have already become more directly involved in the aggression, standing only a step away from total involvement.

Once the aggression reached that level, changes were made in the nature of the war Reagan has imposed on us since 1982, first with the "covert war" which took its name from the manner in which the Reagan administration sent its support to the mercenaries: through CIA organizations, and second with the "humanitarian aid" or "nonlethal" aid, which is the euphemism for the maintenance of the mercenary army. The continuation of the war under this cover-up was done because the Yankee government had not yet officially adopted the aggression, especially after Reagan's first attempt to involve Congress in the escalation of the war failed.

The third case has just been given by the Senate, which approved the $100 million, proposing a solution whereby $25 million would be given to the mercenaries immediately in the form of anti-aircraft weapons, "defense" war equipment, as well as continued logistic and "humanitarian" aid.

On the political order, the Senate decision -- which may be ratified by both houses on 15 April -- marked the transition toward the official Vietnamization of the conflict, which consists of:

A. Official Pentagon involvement in the conduct of the war against Nicaragua.

B. Open and official military training of the mercenaries by U.S. "advisers" who -- as the escalation of the aggression increases -- could be involved at any time in the war.

C. The Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, will again direct the operations of the faithful mercenaries and make efforts to provide them with operational capabilities to control territories and try to bring the war to the Pacific.

D. To condition the release of the remaining $75 million on the "surrender" of Nicaragua through "dialogues" with the mercenaries. This is only an excuse to officialize the release of all of the aid, as the Pentagon may consider advantageous.

Part of this process of Vietnamizing the Central American conflict is the pressure that the United States exerts on Honduras to become involved in the aggression against Nicaragua by mobilizing its own Army, not only lending its territory for the counterrevolutionaries' war operations, a phase unsuccessfully completed ever since the war of aggression began.

The imperialists have reached this extreme in their stubborn intention of destroying the Sandinist people's revolution, rejecting history's teachings and the clamor of the American people, who have somehow managed to influence the Senate's "yes," which was so closely attained by Reagan. This, even if the Senate is not convinced, has made it clear that there is only a slight margin of support for Reagan's plan to Vietnamize Central America.

The main reasons for his failure are the Nicaraguan people's resistance and their peace policies supported by the Latin American people.

ARCE REAFFIRMS WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH REAGAN

PA021654 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0423 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Santo Domingo 1 Apr (EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government is willing to talk with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in an effort to find peace, Sandinist leader Bayardo Arce Castano said tonight.

During a press conference he hosted at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Santo Domingo, Arce said that Reagan recognized he is a contra, and they [the Sandinists] recognize him as the chief of the contras and are therefore willing to talk with him.

He explained, however, that the Nicaraguan people are preparing for a possible direct U.S. invasion, because they have been the target of the anti-Sandinist aggression sponsored from Washington for the last 4 years.

On the other hand, he deems it is necessary to prevent the United States from invading Nicaragua and that peaceful solutions of understanding must be sought through international leaders and organizations. We must understand "we are not in the past century."

Arce is in the Dominican Republic heading his country's delegation to a meeting of the Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Socialist International, a meeting preparatory to the conference to be held in Peru 20-23 July.

NUNEZ TO HEAD GROUP TO GUATEMALA, MEXICO MEETINGS

PA021648 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] The delegation of the National Assembly headed by Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez leaves for Guatemala tomorrow to attend the extraordinary assembly of the Latin American Parliament on 3 to 5 April. Lhe conference, to be attended by presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, and deputies of the Latin American parliaments, will be held under the slogan: In defense of peace and democracy in Central America.

The Nicaraguan mission also includes Mauricio Diaz Davila, vice president of the parliament and secretary general of the Popular Social Christian Party; Dr Rafael Solis, first secretary of the assembly; (Edwin Yescas), representative of the Democratic Conservative Party; Ray Hooker of the FSLN; and Dr Yadira Centeno, legal adviser.

The delegation will also travel to the Mexican capital where it will attend the 75th conference of the IPU that will be held from 7 to 9 April.

OBANDO Y BRAVO CANCELS TRIP TO BRAZIL

PA021404 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- The expected visit to Brazil next week of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua, has been canceled, ecclesiastical sources reported today. The visit of Obando y Bravo, who has been accused of collaborating with the counterrevolutionary forces attacking his country from Honduras was considered inopportune because it would coincide with the 24th assembly of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB), most of whom do not sympathize with Obando y Bravo's pro-U.S. political activism.

CNBB sources announced that Cardinal Obandoy visit has been "indefinitely postponed," for fear that his presence, as guest of Dom Eugenio de Salles, the ultraconservative archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, could introduce hostile elements into the so far theological contradictions between the small conservative current and the majority of the Bazilian priests, who favor liberation theology.

Coinciding with the cacellation of Archbishop Obando y Bravo's visit, a report began to circulate in all of the churches in Brazil's 17 dioceses, describing the political activities conducted by the Nicaraguan cardinal as "coordinator of the counterrevolution's internal front" in his country. The report states that Obando y Bravo carries out activities linked to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, former director of a Nicaraguan newspaper [LA PRENSA], who also visited Brazil last year as guest of International Cause, an anticommunist organization of the Moon sect.

SMP DRAFTING IN REGION 3 TO RESUME 7 APRIL

PA020427 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 6

[Text] Starting on 7 April, the representatives of the Patriotic Military Service, SMP, in Region 3 (Managua) will resume the drafting of youths who are fit to comply with the SMP Law. The drafting began last month and had a brief interruption during the Holy Week vacation.

During this phase, students in the mid-level schools and universities will be drafted, except for those who are studying careers in medicine and agriculture. The drafting of mid-level students will take place from 7-12 April at their respective school buildings. The university students will be summoned from 14-18 April at each university.

National SMP Chief Captain Daniel Pozo said that "the youths must assume a strong role in defending the country, particularly at this time when our sovereignty is being threatened with the war of aggression." In March we had the lowest percentage of violations of the SMP law, Captain Pozo said, adding that the young people are assuming their role in the defense with maturity. "While the attacks increase, the people are responding with more maturity." Meetings and speeches are being organized at the education centers in order to clarify everything concerning compliance with the SMP Law.

EPS FIGHTS ARDE REBELS IN SOUTH, ATLANTIC ZONES

PA030354 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0115 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Heavy fighting has continued in Nicaragua's south and Atlantic zones. Sandinists have attacked ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] counterrevolutionaries in order to gain time since the latter have not received any U.S. aid so far.

ARDE spokesman Hansel [not further identified] has reported that fighting is taking place on the banks of the Escondido and Plata Rivers, an area where Commander Goose operates, as well as on the Cukra River, where San Francisco is located, 20 km southeast of Bluefields. Commander Leonel's column is fighting the Sandinists near El Almedro, (Tilichapa), (Mua), and also Acoyapa. Five days ago the EPS attacked the rebels in Nicaragua's south and Atlantic areas in what could be described as the resumption of an offensive in this area, where little action had been seen because of the contras' shortage of ammunition.

Hansel said that he attributes the Sandinist offensive against ARDE's few resources to the U.S. approval of a $100-million aid package for the anti-Sandinists. ARDE fighters expected a big offensive from the EPS and were ready, although at a disadvantage due to the lack of arms. The Sandinists attacked with Mi-8 helicopters and sophisticated weapons, whereas ARDE has only M-79 and RPG-7 grenade launchers and 57 mm cannon. The rebels reported that the enemy has suffered a considerable number of casualties in the 5 days of fighting, which will continue for several more days. They denied that any fighting has taken place on the Costa Rican side, as has been reported abroad. As for refugees, Hansel said that 300 have entered Costa Rica during the past 15 days from several Nicaraguan departments and that this figure could get higher in the next few days.

REAGAN ARMING 'MERCENARY BANDS' CRITICIZED

PA030315 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Commentary by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The West's messiah, as some U.S. ultrareactionaries have described Ronald Reagan, seems to have been carried away in the past few days in his aggressive policy.

Pressure on the Congress to get no less than $100 million for the bands of former Somozist guards; the armed conflict in the Gulf of Sidra in Libya; rejection to the USSR proposal for the suspension of nuclear tests; in short, everything seems to indicate that the Yankee President is in a hurry to complete his interventionist plans in the 2 years before his term at the White House ends.

Furthermore, Western media have reported a new step in this counterrevolutionary wave, whose results are extremely dangerous because it is not only increasing the area conflicts promoted by Washington, but it is also a threat to international air traffic. There are plans to give surface-to-air missiles to the mercenary bands attacking Nicaragua, Angola, and Afghanistan.

Recently former President James Carter said that Reagan seeks to overthrow the Sandinist revolution before his term ends. We could add this to those other dreams of the White House owner -- the cases of Afghanistan and Angola.

According to reports by the U.S. television network ABC, THE WASHINGTON POST, and the UK newspapers THE GUARDIAN and THE TIMES, Reagan's purpose is to provide his proteges with Stinger portable anti-aircraft missiles, which puts a weapon capable of downing commercial planes in the hands of illegal groups, with obvious risks for international air traffic.

This step by the U.S. Government again makes clear that the present U.S. President, inclined to regard his enemies as terrorists, is actually the main promoter of terrorism in the world.

FLAVIO BRAVO ON L.A. PARLIAMENT MEETING, GOALS

PA020450 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Report by Barbara Betancourt]

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the special meeting of the Latin American Parliament to be held in Guatemala on 2 April left Monday from Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. The delegation is headed by Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, who agreed to answer our questions regarding the agenda of that parliamentary meeting.

[Begin recording] Well, the executive board of the Latin American Parliament called a meeting of parliamentarians from all over the continent in Guatemala on 2 April. The key objective is to discuss the Central American problem, that is, the situation which is so tense in Central America. The parliamentarians will discuss possible solutions to this situation. [end recording]

Bravo referred also to the way the situation has grown more acute in Central America following the alleged invasion of Honduran territory by Sandinist forces, as claimed by the U.S. Government.

[Begin recording] Actually, the U.S. maneuvers in Honduras were not caused by the alleged Nicaraguan invasion of Honduras. This is a North American invention that has practically fallen through. They had been holding maneuvers before Reagan spread this lie. He did this to get votes on the eve of the voting in the U.S. Senate. He scored a pyrrhic victory with a margin of only five votes in the Senate, which is dominated by Republicans. The situation is tense; however, it is tense because of the Reagan administration's aggressive policy of not engaging in dialogue and not seeking solutions but of imposing a regime on Nicaragua like the ones they are used to in Central America -- military regimes like that of Tacho [Anastasio] Somoza and other regimes in that Caribbean area. We will struggle to put an end to the North American aggression against Nicaragua.

The North Americans propose that the Nicaraguan Government negotiate with the so-called contras. These are not contras. This is a group of mercenaries. It would be the same as if we had sat down to talk with Batista's murderous criminals, except that the Nicaraguan (?leaders) have said correctly that they are prepared to talk with the head of the mercenaries. that is with Mr Reagan, who is the one organizing the struggle against Nicaragua. [end recording]

Comments on Foreign Debt

FL030115 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] of Cuba, has said the Latin American Parliament meeting that will begin tomorrow, Thursday, in Guatemala is a decisive forum for struggle for Latin America. Calling for continental unity, the Cuban leader said the situation continues to be aggravated, not just because of the conflict in Central America, but because of the regional countries' growing foreign debt. If we do not all unite against payment of the foreign debt and in defense of Nicaragua, if we do not firmly stand up to prevent Washington's military aggression against Sandino's fatherland, we will lose our own countries' independence, he stressed.

In reference to the position the Cuban delegation will maintain at the Latin American Parliament, Bravo said they will struggle for an end to U.S. aggression in the area. Bravo added that if there is no compromise from the White House, not just verbal but written, the crisis will not be resolved.

RISQUET CARRIES CASTRO MESSAGE TO ANGOLAN LEADER

FL021753 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] With a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro for his Angolan counterpart Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Communist Party of Cuba Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes has arrived in the Angolan capital. At Luanda's air terminal, the Cuban official told reporters that he will meet with the country's leadership to discuss southern Africa's burning conflicts, the struggle for Namibia's independence, and that of the South African people against the unfair apartheid regime. Jorge Risquet also expressed his satisfaction at being in Angola again and asserted they will also analyze matters related to bilateral relations between the two countries.

COOPERATION WITH GDR IN SUGAR INDUSTRY TO DOUBLE

FL021822 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Cooperation between the GDR and Cuba in our most important economic area will double during the present 5-year period.

During this period the GDR will provide 10 agricultural-chemical centers for the cane industry worth 15 million rubels. Those centers have the highest developed technology in the world in the use of fertilizers.

CASTRO AWARDS USSR TRIP TO OUTSTANDING WORKERS

FL022348 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Invited by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, 11 agricultural workers from Camaguey will visit the Soviet Union this year. The incentive includes all expenses paid for the worker and his companion and is awarded in recognition of the results obtained in the completion of the worker's production and service plans during the past year.

The group is composed of six national vanguard and five provincial workers in the areas of cattle, ports, material insurance (aseguramientos materiales), scientific-technical research, forestry, and agriculture.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS AT FOREIGN TRADE CEREMONY

FL030058 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Speaking at the main ceremony for the 25th anniversary of the Foreign Trade Ministry, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said that improving the quality of export products is the only way to compete in the international market.

Rafael Rodriguez said that this is everyone's task, especially producers, merchants, and sellers.

FOREIGN SECRETARY EXPECTS RENEWAL OF CONTADORA

FL022246 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Mar 86, p 4

[By Epifanio Rodriguez]

[Text] Santiago -- Dominican Foreign Secretary Jose Augusto Vega Imbert said he expects that the efforts of the Contadora Group will be renewed in the search for peace and that a generalized conflict in Central America will be avoided.

Vega Imbert told LISTIN DIARIO that "the Dominican Foreign Secretariat is attentively following and greatly concerned with the recent tensions that have emerged in the Central American conflict."

The secretary also said that "the Foreign Secretariat is confident the principles of nonintervention and self-determination of the peoples will be completely preserved."

Vega Imbert reiterated his invariable position that a negotiated peaceful solution is the only true, desirable, and convenient solution for all parts.

The foreign secretary was participating here in the Dominican Revolutionary Party's convention to elect congressional candidates.

PRESIDENT'S WIFE TO RUN FOR SEAT IN SENATE

FL021256 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The wife of the president of the Dominican Republic says she will run for a seat in the Senate in national elections on 16 May. The candidacy had been offered to Santo Domingo Mayor Jose Francisco Pena Gomez after he agreed to a compromise allowing the Senate president to run for president for the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party. But Mr Pena Gomez said he did not want the job because he could not accept a lesser office, and President Salvador Jorge Blanco's wife Asela Mera registered instead. President Jorge Blanco has declined a second term in office.

BRIEFS

NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR -- President Salvador Jorge Blanco will receive on Monday Japanese Ambassador Suketaro Enomoto's credentials during a ceremony to be held in the hall of ambassadors at the National Palace. Foreign Secretary Dr Jose Augusto Vega Imbert will also attend. Ambassador Enomoto is replacing Takeo Inguchi. [Excerpt] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Mar 86, p 3 FL]

CARDATS PROGRAM EXTENDED, AIDS EASTERN FARMERS

FL022150 Bridgetown CANA in English 2122 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, April 2, CANA -- The Grenada-based Caribbean Agricultural Rural Development and Advisory Training Service (Cardats), which is providing technical assistance to 1,600 farmers in the eastern Caribbean, has been extended to 1990, the Caricom Secretariat said today.

The project steering committee, comprising representatives of the participating Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries, the Caricom, and OECS Secretariats and funding agencies, was satisfied that Cardats has improved the lot of the small farming communities of the seven OECS member states, the Secretariat said.

The committee met in St Lucia on March 13 and 14.

BAHAMAS

CONTENT OF AGREEMENT WITH CUBA DISCLOSED

FL022036 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 2 Apr 86

[By Mike Smith]

[Text] Details of the Bahamas meeting with Cuba have been disclosed. The two delegations discussed matters of mutual interest including the limitation of maritime bondaries between the two countries, fisheries matters, sporting and cultural matters, and the importance of establishing contacts at the official level as a means of minimizing the risk of confrontation and misunderstanding between the Bahamas and Cuba and avoiding [word indistinct] attack an incident such as the HMBS Flamingo. [Bahamian vessel sunk 12 May, 1980 by Cuban aircraft]

The two ministers also exchanged views on cooperation and the ways of combatting international drug trafficking and terrorism.

Diplomatic relations between the Bahamas and Cuba were established in 1974. Both countries have agreed to maintain ambassadors at the non-resident level.

The Bahamas delegation was headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs the Honorable Clement T. Maynard.

The Cuban delegation was headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Isidoro Malmierca Poeli.

The two ministers conducted their discussions in an atmosphere that was frank and cordial. Both ministers agreed that dialogue on the important bilateral issues should continue at the ambassadorial level although such dialogue might also continue at the ministerial level from time to time.

BARBADOS

PRIME MINISTER PRESENTS 1986-87 BUDGET

FL030124 Bridgetown CANA in English 0109 GMT 3 Apr 86

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 2, CANA -- Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St John tonight presented his 1986/87 budget in Parliament here, announcing a 40.6 million dollar package of concessions and tax incentives, along with 15 million dollars in new revenue measures.

The budget, according to the government's estimate of revenue and expenditure approved by Parliament last week, calls for current spending of 700.2 million dollars (Bds doll; 50 cents U.S.), with revenue put at 704.6 million. Current spending for the last financial year ended March 31 was provisionally 653.5 million dollars.

St John, who is also minister of finance, removed from the tax net 7,500 more persons with an annual income of 10,000 dollars or less, lowered mortgage interest rates from 11 to 10 per cent, and cut the average lending rate by half-a-per-centage point to 9.5 per cent.

St John also reduced the central bank discount rate from 13 to 11 per cent and slashed from 60 to 50 per cent the maximum rate for personal income tax.

He announced a new aid programme for small scale, high export-earning manufacturing and service industries, which will have access to loans of up to half a million dollars each from the Barbados Development Bank.

St John lowered the prices of motor fuels by five cents per litre and liquefied petroleum gas by about 11 per cent.

The prime minister, who forecast economic growth this year of at least 3 per cent, declared: Today, as we look to the future with our economy poised for sustained recovery, the best is yet to come.

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LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT OPENS 3 APRIL

PA040410 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The Latin American Parliament will be installed tomorrow in a ceremony to be held in the Vista Room of the Supreme Court of Justice. Rodolfo Maldonado, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Honduran Congress, has reported on the arrival of foreign delegations that will participate in this international assembly.

[Begin recording] I would say that between 85 and 90 percent of the delegations registered for participation in the Latin American Parliament are already here. I can report also that we have a delegation of observers from Canada. The delegations of Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Netherlands Antilles, Curacao, and Cuba are already here. This evening we are expecting the arrival of the delegations from Panama and the Dominican Republic. The Honduran delegation will be arriving tomorrow. Once these delegations arrive, attendance will be almost 100 percent, if not 100 percent, for the Latin American Parliament meeting. [end recording]

COSTA RICA'S GUTIERREZ ON CONTADORA GOALS

PA040403 Paris AFP in Spanish 0044 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] San Jose, 3 Apr (AFP) -- Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez today reiterated the need for the United States and Cuba to openly participate in the Contadora Group peace efforts for the Central American region. Gutierrez, whose tenure ends 8 May, said "that it is evident" that the East-West conflict projects itself in the Central American crisis, and because of this, it would be convenient to seat Washington and Havana at the negotiating table.

However, Gutierrez announced that he will oppose U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contras being discussed by the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the Central American countries, who will meet in Panama next weekend. The Costa Rican foreign minister commented: "I cannot see how one can discuss or negotiate on this type of affair if one of the parties involved (United States) is not present."

Gutierrez pointed out that on the other hand, last week's military clashes at the border region between Honduras and Nicaragua "is a valid topic for discussion, as both parties involved will be in Panama." Gutierrez hoped that the foreign ministers' meeting in Panama will allow negotiations to advance regarding the establishment of an international commission for patrol and surveillance between the border of Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

However, the diplomat insisted that Costa Rica and Nicaragua have not entered into any sort of agreement on the topic, adding that "the only things agreed upon up to the present have been certain bases for understandings." Gutierrez emphasized that in order to complete the negotiations on the topic it would be ncessary for a committee of experts to travel along the common border in order to define technical and economic requirements of the plan. He also added that he is awaiting a report from the Contadora Group who "are to inquire on possible sources of financing for this border commission." In this connection, Guterrez said that the presence of European delegates for the weekend meeting in Panama "could be connected" with the seeking of financing for the international patrol of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border.

ALFONSIN INAUGURATES RIVER PLATE BASIN MEETING

PY032357 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] President Raul Alfonsin said today at the inauguration of the 2nd extraordinary and the 16th ordinary meeting of the River Plate Basin, that the River Plate Basin now offers us an appropriate scenario to test our convictions and to fulfill our desire to work together. Alfonsin also recalled that 20 years ago, from that same San Martin Palace, an invitation was made by the foreign minister of Arturo Illia's government to meditate, analyze, and undertake together actions and works related to an orderly administration of the River Plate Basin and to the full use of its resources.

After praising the character and actions of Dr Miguel Angel Zavala Ortiz, foreign minister during Illia's administration, President Alfonsin named the actions already taken by the River Plate Basin organization. President Alfonsin ended his speech by saying that integration among our nations is no longer a mere proposition by academics and visionaries but the inescapable demand of our own realities.

After President Alfonsin left San Martin Palace, the foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, elected Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo as chairman of the meeting together with the organizer of this special meeting, Minister Angel Scagliotti. Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias was the first speaker to address the meeting, and he spoke in favor of cooperation among the countries of the basin, aimed at achieving an integration which will increase the resources of the five nations forming the organization. Later, Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez recalled that a new path toward integration is open now and that it will require new methodology to follow it. He also pointed out that the lack of a new international economic order, added to the application by the northern countries of new protectionist measures and the cruel pressure of the bankers conspire against the spirit of integration, which inspired the countries of the Basin.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre also addressed the participants of the inauguration meeting, speaking of the importance of the natural resources of the basin. The last speaker was Paraguayan Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar, who gave a list of projects still waiting for approval, and expressed Paraguay's desire to contribute to their implementation.

The foreign ministers later left the meeting to participate at the luncheon hosted by Dante Caputo at an important hotel in this capital.

ARMED FORCES CHIEFS OF STAFF RECALL FALKLAND WAR

PY031314 [(Editorial Report)] Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1840 GMT on 2 April 1986 carries an 800-word wrap-up of the Armed Forces chiefs of staff messages marking the occasion of the anniversary of the Malvinas war.

In a message that was read at noon today at all the naval garrisons and institutions, Navy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Ramon Antonio Arosa stated that "4 years ago today the Argentine joint forces returned the Malvinas Islands to our territory, in a landing operation that deserves to be called exemplary because it achieved its objectives under difficult conditions and without bloodshed."

Arosa's message goes on to praise those who later died defending their country and states that "their memory encourages and inspires us to continue fulfilling our duty." Likewise, Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Ernesto Crespo's message was read at the main ceremony held at the military Air Force headquarters. In this message Crespo voices the hope that "those of us who survived the Malvinas War will have as much courage as those heroes who shed their blood so that the institution may continue on "the path of sacrifice and courage" taken by our martyrs. In his message, Crespo urges his subordinates to join the effort to be able to "give our successors an Air Force worthy of that force that showed the enemy that it did not swear in vain to defend its flag with its life." Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu's message was read during a ceremony that took place this morning at the Libertador Building. In his message Erenu urged that "that heroic action that allowed our national flag to once again flutter at the top of a mast in Puerto Argentino encourage us to improve our training and our combat ability." He also stated that "the sacrifices were not made in vain, because the lives that were lost stand as a testimony before the world and history of a just cause."

CAPUTO ON C.A. CIVILIAN COMMISSION, FALKLANDS

PY032321 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1515 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Beunos Aires, 3 Apr (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has stated that the Argentine Government will study thoroughly a Nicaraguan proposal to create a civilian surveillance commission on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border if this request is made by all the Central American countries because "we cannot support what we are condemning, namely, intervention" in the internal affairs of other nations. On the other hand, Caputo ruled out the possibility that the Latin American countries will be forced to choose between the Contadora Group and the Consensus of Cartagena. He said that "I do not believe that we will have to stop cooperating in [the efforts to overcome] the Central American crisis in order to overcome the foreign debt issue."

In statements made at the conclusion of the morning session of the second special meeting of foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin, Caputo said that the installation of a civilian commission on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border "is a complex mechanism that cannot be studied unless it is requested by all the countries involved." On the other hand, Caputo emphasized that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar "is making enormous efforts, advocating dialogue and negotiations over the Malvinas conflict, but is facing the same problem we are facing owing to the intransigence of Mrs Margaret Thatcher." Caputo stated that the British Government "is becoming increasingly isolated in the international scene, while we continue endorsing negotiations which England appears to fear so much."

PEREZ DE CUELLAR ARRIVES IN BUENOS AIRES

PY031328 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1328 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (NA) -- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today stated that he "will never stop searching for a peaceful solution to the Malvinas problem" and added that he will again take up the South Atlantic problem at the United Nations, because "this is my permanent concern." President Raul Alfonsin, accompanied by national government and Foreign Ministry officials, welcomed the UN secretary general today at 0940 at the metropolitan airport, where he arrived from Montevideo. In a brief press conference, Perez de Cuellar said that he is "very happy to be in Buenos Aires, with the Argentine people, above all in this new democratic Argentina."

FOREIGN MINISTRY ASKS FOR MANDELA'S RELEASE

PY022158 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1854 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (TELAM) -- The Foreign Ministry has reported that the charge d'affaires of the Republic of South Africa has been summoned in order to reiterate the Argentine Government's unswerving request to achieve the unconditional release of Mr Nelson Mandela by the South African Government. The charge d'affaires was also told about a petition for the release of all those political prisoners who, as is the case with Nelson Mandela, are imprisoned as a result of their struggle against racial discrimination. The communique confirms the Argentine Government's regret over the alarming escalation of violence occurring in that country as a result of the implementation of the unjust apartheid policy and ratifies the opposition of the Argentine Government to any aggression or threats by the South African Government.

BRIEFS

NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS -- The Education and Justice Minister today announced that Francisco Delich has been appointed education secretary to replace Bernardo Sola, who has been appointed Argentine ambassador to Panama. The minister also reported that Rodolfo Perez has been appointed to the National Education, Science, and Culture Coordination Secretariat. [Summary] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1950 GMT 20 Mar 86 PY]

INTERIOR SECRETARY SWORN IN -- President Raul Alfonsin today presided over the swearing-in of Interior Secretary Facundo Suarez Lastra. This position has just been created. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86 PY]

MILITARY OFFICIAL PROMOTED -- Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (NA) -- The national executive branch has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Jose Francisco Siciliano as secretary of the Armed Forces Supreme Council replacing Lieutenant General Edgardo Semberoiz. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0050 GMT 20 Mar 86 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. APPOINTED -- Buenos Aires, 10 Mar (DYN) -- The government has officially announced the appointment of Enrique Candioti, currently ambassador to the FRG, as new Argentine ambassador to the United States replacing Lucio Garcia del Solar. Carlos Adelmar Ferro will become ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1431 GMT 10 Mar 86 PY]

MORE ENVOYS SELECTED -- Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (TELAM) -- The Argentine Government has appointed Leopoldo Tettamanti as ambassador to the International Organizations in Geneva and Mario Alfonso Pepe as ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Ambassador Pepe will also act as concurrent ambassador to Oman and Yemen. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0051 GMT 28 Feb 86 PY]

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR NAMED -- The Argentine Government has approved the appointment of Fernando Adan Guzman Cuadra as extraordinary and plenipotentiary Nicaraguan ambassador to Argentina. Guzman Cuadra will replace Ricardo Zambrana Diaz, who has held this post since 1982. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0203 GMT 18 Mar 86 PY]

DEMONSTRATIONS, ARRESTS REPORTED IN COCHABAMBA

PY020315 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The Radio Panamericana correspondent in the city of Cochabamba reports that several arrests were made as a result of the demonstrations held yesterday bv university students. Our correspondent, Juan Gutierrez, will now report.

[Begin relay, in progress] ...Panamericana from Cochabamba. According to reports made by governmental authorities and Greater University of San Simon officials, 15 people were arrested as a result of demonstrations held yesterday. A few minutes ago governmental authorities and Greater University of San Simon officials reported to the press at the prefect's office that 15 people were arrested as a result of clashes between university students and the forces of order. Out of these 15 people, 10 are university students and the rest do not belong to the Greater University of San Simon, which is of concern to both the governmental authorities and university officials. Shortly before beginning this report, the governmental authorities and university officials were authorized to negotiate the release of the university students. In turn, the prefect has stated that preliminary statements are being taken and that afterward, the university students will reportedly be set free provided that the university's rector, Dr (Jorge Triboandia), provides guarantees for the arrested students. [end relay]

On the other hand, the Cochabamba police have released an official report on the demonstrations held yesterday. Our correspondent says that at the time of his report, that is, at about 1230, new demonstrations were being held in Cochabamba.

[Begin relay] In addition, through a communique forwarded to the [word indistinct] and communications, the police have reported that a person was caught in the very act of hurling a Molotov cocktail against the offices of the (Unioncard) company. In addition, some attacks were perpetrated against the buildings housing the Bolivian American Bank and the Toyota Import company. Nevertheless, the prefect said that demonstrators will no longer be allowed access to the main square. At this time, that is, at 1227, new demonstrations are taking place in the suburban areas in the city of Cochabamba. [end relay] This was the information relayed by the Radio Panamericana correspondent in the city of Cochabamba.

POLICE PROTECT PALACE FROM DEMONSTRATORS

PY040312 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 3 Apr (AFP) -- Police forces today surrounded the main square of La Paz, where the Presidential Palace is located, in order to protect it from thousands of students, teachers, and university administrative workers who are demanding that the budget allocations for education be increased. The police are equipped with teargas launchers, truncheons, and shields to handle the street riots of demonstrators who are protesting the government's indifference toward their requests.

In the morning, primary and high-school students held a rallv in front of the Congressional Building, where Education Minister Enrique Ipina was being questioned by the Chamber of Deputies.

Interior Minister Fernando Berthelemy warned that no outrages by teachers and students would be permitted and all acts of violence would be repressed. The minister did not rule out the possibility of arresting the leaders and imposing a state of siege in the country.

Meanwhile, education workers dismissed for not having started classes -- approximately 75,000 teachers -- have decided to stage a mass hunger strike to last until they obtain substantial salary raises. This hunger strike has received the support of private schools that will strike for 48 hours.

The problems besieging the government are being worsened by regional strikes, street violence, and other protest measures that are being organized by the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) and the National Committee for the Defense of Education.

La Paz Students, Police Clash

PY040400 Paris AFP in Spanish 0339 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 3 Apr (AFP) -- University students and policemen clashed today in the downtown avenues of this capital as the students held a protest demonstration over lack of attention to their budget demands. The students hurled stones at the policemen, who responded with tear gas, leaving the streets of El Prado Promenade completely deserted, although the demonstrators reorganized their pickets to harrass the policemen. University sources have reported that a social communications student was injured by a tear gas cannister and that the students will continue with their protests until the executive branch meets their demands.

It was noted that the university budget was cut by half and that for this reason all the Bolivian universities could be closed. Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy has announced that the police and security forces will act very severely to prevent outbursts and mentioned the possibility of arresting [student] leaders and enforcing a stage of siege.

COB CALLS NATIONAL STRIKE FOR 7 APRIL

PY040356 Paris AFP in Spanish 0316 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 3 Apr (AFP) -- Labor leader Walter Delgadillo has reported that a national meeting of leaders of the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) today decided to call a general strike with popular mobilization on 7 April as a demonstration of repudiation of the government's educational policy. Delgadillo stated that the 24-hour strike is the most clear demonstration of the concern of the workers and popular sectors regarding Bolivian education, a sector that has practically been abandoned by the executive branch in its 1986 budget. He also stated that the strike will have singular importance, because UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will be in Bolivia, and he will be able to observe the true national reality. The labor leader stressed that the COB is seeking an interview with Perez de Cuellar to inform him about the situation of Bolivian workers.

For their part, the leaders of the educational sector have charged that the government is firing 75,000 teachers, who will begin a massive hunger strike on 7 April as an answer to the official measure and demanding a salary increase. The average salary of the teachers is $25 dollars per month.

POLICE, DEMONSTRATORS CLASH IN CALAMA, ARICA

PY030348 Paris AFP in Spanish 0303 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Calama, Chile, 2 Apr (AFP) -- The Chilean Carabineros tonight arrested 12 demonstrators during violent demonstrations that broke out at the end of a mass in Calama Cathedral to commemorate the first anniversary of the murder of 3 communist professions. Some hours later a blackout left this city, 1,550 km north of Santiago, in the dark. The confrontations took place in the neighborhood of the main plaza, when hundreds of miners, students, teachers and other people shouted slogans against General Augusto Pinochet's government. The police, using tear gas and truncheons, repelled the demonstrators, who demanded the clearing up of the kidnapping and murder of Santiago Nattino, Jose Manuel Parada and of Manuel Guerrero, whose bodies, with their throats cut, were found in the neighborhood of Santiago's international airport.

Prior to the blacking out of the city, groups of demonstrators destroyed the windows and neon signs of shops, while tear gas made it impossible to breathe in the downtown area of this mining city. Witnesses told AFP that in some sectors of the outskirts of Calama the demonstrators built barricades and that there were some confrontations with the police.

The incidents took place some 20 km from the Chuquicamata mine, the world's largest open-pit mine, where during the afternoon approximately 2,500 miners paraded, shouting antigovernment slogans. In Arica, 2,100 km north of Santiago, the police detained 12 members of the opposition who were participating, together with dozens of teachers and students, in a meeting that took place at the headquarters of the teachers union and that had been called to recall the triple murder. Union sources indicated that a woman teacher was injured by a tear gas bomb. Radio reports indicate that the action took place after Carabineros had dispersed a peaceful march in the downtown area of Arica. At the headquarters of the Teachers Professional Association the police launched tear gas bombs for 30 minutes and kept the place surrounded with approximately 50 people inside. These persons were allowed later to leave the sector without any problem.

TEACHERS CONTINUE DEMONSTRATIONS IN SANTIAGO

PY030246 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] New demonstrations against the regime of Augusto Pinochet have taken place in Chile. We are linked now, via satellite, with Radio Chilena in Santiago to elaborate on this matter. Good afternoon, Liliana Sepulveda.

[Begin relay] Good afternoon. Several ceremonies have been held here in Santiago in the past few days to commemorate the first anniversary of the killing of professionals Jose Manuel Parada, Santiago Nattino, and Manuel Guerrero. A political-cultural rally was held last night in a theater in downtown Santiago. Upon its conclusion, the rally was strongly repressed by members of the uniformed police.

The celebrations marking the day of mourning called by the Trade Union of Chilean Teachers [AGEC], which had been presided over by Manuel Guerrero, began early this afternoon. Carabineros have repeatedly made attempts to break up the demonstrators, who again gather throughout Santiago's districts. This is all we can report from Radio Chilena in Santiago for Radio Nacional in Buenos Aires. [end recording]

Thank you very much, Liliana Sepulveda from Radio Chilena.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, RADICAL UNION APPROVE MERGER

PY031438 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Mar 86 p C-3

[Text] Bernardo Echeverria and Nery Valenzuela have reported in a public statement that on 27 March the Radical Union officially approved the decision to merge with the Social Democratic Party. They said that in view of the uncertainty caused by political disagreements among the democratic sectors, the Radical Union has decided to promote "cohesion among the sectors and independent citizens who love democracy and believe it to be the best form of government."

They have also stated that with this purpose in mind, the Radical Union has decided to merge with the Chilean Social Democrats, a political sector, they said, with which there exists a "fundamental point of agreement regarding principles characterized by the common desire to introduce democratic socialism, a principle promoted as an ideal by the old Radical Party and which is by nature against every type of totalitariansim and dictatorship."

PDC'S VALDES DISCUSSES VIOLENCE, CIVILIAN FRONT

PY031406 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Apr 86 p C3

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Gabriel Valdes has expressed his regret regarding the incidents that occurred on Monday, 31 March, in Santiago, stating that his party long ago warned about the process of escalating violence that is taking place in the country. Commenting on the incidents, Valdes attributed the violence to the procedures being implemented by the government. He added that he has been discussing this situation from the political rostrum, and that foreigners have been noting for many years "the process of growing polarization and hatred ending in violence." Valdes said that these incidents are taking place because of the current circumstances and that they are reprehensible in themselves "but are part of a violent situation" which is to be blamed on the government.

In addition, Valdes yesterday criticized the statements Colonel Hernan Nunez, the director of civil organizations, made about his party and the Democratic Alliance [AD]. In response to the government official, Valdes stated that the report by UN Human Rights observer Fernando Volio on Human rights in Chile has drawn clear concepts "establishing the character and the significance of what is taking place in the country."

Gabriel Valdes, who spoke during an impromptu press conference, said that the PDC fully supports the call made by Dr Juan Luis Gonzalez, the chairman of the medical association, who urged the formation of a civilian front. Valdes said that the problems that have arisen inside the AD are of "lesser importance" and have not affected the existence of the opposition organization. "We want to reshape the AD in an organization that makes proposals, a group of parties that has common idea of what the future democracy must be like, and a place to review and propose programs for the country's democratic future," he said. Valdes stated that, in his opinion, the charter of the opposition organization will not remain unchanged. "We believe that there are some operational aspects that must be changed," Valdes concluded.

POPE NOT TO MEET GUERRILLA LEADERS DURING VISIT

PA030420 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The president of the Episcopal Conference, Msgr Hector Rueda Hernandez, reported today that Pope John Paul II will not meet with guerrilla leaders during his visit to Colombia next July. Rueda, archbishop of Bucaramanga, in the northeast of the country, answered questions on the desire of the FARC and M-19 leaders to examine the national situation with the pope.

In a news conference, Msgr Rueda Hernandez stated that "the pontiff's program in Colombia has been approved in its entirety by the Holy See, and it is so tightly scheduled that there will be not time for granting more audiences." Rueda added that "the groups -- subversive or not -- who want to obtain an audience with the pope during his stay in Colombia, will have to give up." Nevertheless he assured that the bishopric has so far not received any request for an interview of John Paul II.

The prelate indicated that in the case of having received "timely" the request for interviews, "any reply would have been left to the consideration and prudence of his holiness."

ESPIONAGE NETWORK DISCOVERED IN DEFENSE MINISTRY

PA040434 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The Colombian Government has discovered an espionage network within the Defense Minstry, comprised of four women and one man. According to the newspaper EL TIEMPO, they are Luzmary Guerra Luna, Luz Mercedes Pardo de Villamor, Carmen Rosa Sandoval, and Sacramento Lozano Ramirez, who worked as secretaries, and Sergeant Jairo Henry Vaca. All come from the 10th Army Brigade. The band has been stealing documents classified as military secrets and apparently turning them over to the guerrillas in the country.

M-19 DOCUMENT ANNOUNCES NEW MILITARY STRATEGY

PA032356 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2011 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota, 3 Apr (DPA) -- The Colombian guerrilla organization M-19 has admitted that guerrillas have reached their end as a project in the country "because they cannot guarantee to reach power by themselves." The movement said that it has initiated a new military strategy that "will enable it to destroy the fighting ability of the oligarchs' army" on the streets of big cities. In a clandestine document entitled "Campaign Stories" that the M-19 has sent to international news agencies, the subversive group states that in March it initiated "a long-cherished dream to become a popular army that will take the struggle to a higher level."

The bulletin claims that a new stage of the insurrection struggle in Colombia began on 1 January when several M-19 columns began a march in the north of the southwestern Department of Cauca to seek specific conventional war objectives, such as ambushes, attacks, and the participation of a large number of combatants against considerable military forces, such as the Colombian Battalion and its special antiguerrilla units. The document indicates that the plan took shape on 12 March when hundreds of guerrillas arrived in the hills around Cali -- Colombia's third largest city -- and fought troops of the Army's 3d division for several hours. According to the communique, for its new strategy, the M-19 organized the preliminary forces of what purports to be the people's army with Colombian combatants and foreigners of the Ecuadoran Alfaro Lives movement, the Peruvian Tupac Amaru II Revolution Movement and others from several Latin American countries.

GARCIA DISCUSSES INFLATION, IMF, SINACOSO

PY032323 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia today announced that a large dam will be constructed on the Manchay River to store 50 million cubic meters of water and supply the villages south of Lima with running water. The president visited the area as well as Villa Salvador, Villa Maria del Triunfo, and La Costa Verde. Garcia reiterated his position in defense of freedom of expression. He also spoke about the country's economic situation and relations with the IMF, and he denied any cabinet reforms.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, is this the first of a series of projects you planned for your administration?

[Garcia] Well, apart from the economic stabilization, which I think we are managing to attain -- because in the first 3 months of the year the inflation rate was 50 percent of that registered in the same period last year -- we must carry out some projects of social importance. One of these is the irrigation program of almost 100,000 hectares in (Chavimochi) in the north, La Libertad Department. Another project is that of the Chachis River in Ayacucho, which is a historic vindication of the Ayacucho people. Lima also needs this kind of project to guarantee a supply of running water, something that is fundamental for urban development.

[Reporter] Mr President, to use your own words saying that there is a good economic evolution during the first 3 months of the year, could this be considered perhaps as....

[Garcia, interrupting] Not as bad, it is not as bad. I am not all that optimistic, because I do not believe that things have been solved. I simply mean that the economic situation is not as bad as it was last year.

[Reporter] Could this help convince our creditors that the Peruvian position toward the foreign debt is correct?

[Garcia] Well, apart from that, what we must celebrate is that the economy is gradually attaining a level more compatible with the needs of the people. Inflation during the first 3 months of 1985 was almost 35 percent. Inflation during the same period this year was 15 percent. This means that we are progressing. Life and politics are teaching us that realism and revolution mean that we must understand that any transformation must come gradually, but safely. We cannot say that inflation dropped to zero in 1 day, we whould be deceiving everyone, including ourselves. The important thing is that inflation is falling gradually and this requires patience to overcome the very serious problem we inherited.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] Well, I think that the country has demonstrated its patience for a long time. I do not think we can ask for any more because Peru has had to tolerate many things in the last few years.

[Reporter] Regarding the economy, can you confirm that some IMF delegates are withdrawing from the country?

[Garcia] Well, you know that the IMF has two aspects. It is a bank that lends us money and to which we owe money, but it is also an organization that watches excessively the economy of some countries as if it were an economic policeman that informs the rest of the world banks about a country's economic behavior. To comply with this task, it gives us recommendations, imposes certain policies on us, such as the ones applied during the past administrations and which led us to this current situation, that is, to our economic destruction.

Since the beginning we have refused to follow any policy different from the one chosen by the Peruvian people on 14 April. This is why, when the IMF proposed sending a commission to study our national economy and propose policies, we said that the people had not chosen this alternative and they had not voted for anyone to intervene in our economy. We do not accept commissioners or viceroys like the IMF. There was a contract signed by the former government allowing an IMF commission to remain in Peru. This commission's term has now ended and we will not renew the contract. This means that we will now be completely independent from any foreign intervention, participation, or presence.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Mr President, don't you think that it may harm (?the image) of the country?

[Garcia] Not at all, on the contrary, Peru will gain more respect, dignity, sovereignty and independence. One can be very poor, but one must be worthy and free, this is the important thing. One must not become an economic servant through intervention.

[Reporter] Mr President, what are Peru's current ties with the IMF?

[Garcia] The normal ones of a debtor with a bank to whom it owes money and which, naturally, is trying to collect the debt owed.

[Reporter] What special proposal are you taking to Montevideo?

[Garcia] Well, there are many economic issues from which we expect to obtain some mutual positive results. For example, you know that we are learning, beginning to get used to eating lamb in our country. Well, we have another important idea. Why don't we eat lamb from our own production by renewing our flocks with better, improved, foreign breeds? We will talk about this in Uruguay.

[Reporter] Mr President, may we speak about the government's decision to dissolve the National Social Communication System [Sistema Nacional de Comunicacion Social -- Sinacoso]?

[Garcia] Well, we proposed this during our election campaign. We do not see any reason for the existence of an organization to regulate the media. As you know, the Central Information Office was created during the military regime to control the television channels and newspapers belonging to the rulers, not to the country.

We think that the worst thing that can be done is to suppress freedom of opinion or expression, taking into consideration all the risks. Of course some abuses do occur, but this is the risk of democracy itself and one must learn how to overcome these risks. We believe that a ruler must be exposed to criticism, to healthy, well-intentioned criticism, so it is not necessary for the state to control any radio or television stations, or newspaper.

We have returned to Mr (Cavero Dubois) nearly 30 radio stations that were confiscated from him during the military regime and which the former government did not return. We have dissolved the Sinacoso and guaranteee press freedom through a draft bill in Congress. We also have a news agency that is meant to present news from a Peruvian point of view. We cannot depend solely on the international news agencies, which have their own ideological points of view. Peru must have its own teletypes to report its own points of view.

[Reporter] There are some rumors that there could be a cabinet shuffle in the next few months, could you confirm these rumors?

[Garcia] Well, by reading a magazine I learned that I am about to change the prime minister. I do not see why I should change what is working very well. I think that the prime minister is doing a good job and I have publicly and privately told him so. It is evident that the results of the government's economic and general policies are gradually improving our situation, after nearly 250-percent inflation. We are making an immense effort with the people's support to reduce this inflation gradually.

In the next few days I belive we will launch a new offensive to keep all Peruvians alert, to prevent inflation from running wild again, to prevent the following psychological belief: I should increase my prices in case things change in the future. We must control all this, but I have no complaints against the ministers, and the prime minister is doing his job well, to the best of my knowledge.
[end recording]

WAGNER PREVIEWS GARCIA'S URUGUAYAN AGENDA

PY030135 Paris AFP in Spanish 2041 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 2 Apr (AFP) -- Last night Foreign Minister Allan Wagner announced that President Alan Garcia, during his visit to Uruguay on 10 and 11 April, will discuss the recent political uncertainty created by the United States in Central America, among other important subjects. The Peruvian foreign minister, who will accompany the young president during his visit, said that the U.S. attitude in the region leads to neither peace nor democracy.

He explained that if the U.S. Congress approves the economic aid to the contras, the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group will have to decide whether to break relations or not. He said that to stimulate a tense atmosphere in the area will lead to neither peace nor democracy.

Announcing that during his address to the Uruguayan Congress the Peruvian president will make an appeal for Latin American unity, Wagner also said that the foreign debt and the Central American crisis are the main subjects to be discussed by the two chiefs of state. Wagner noted that Garcia will visit Uruguay 7 days after UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar visits that country.

The foreign minister also disclosed that the Peruvian and Chilean high military commands will meet in Lima shortly, but did not discuss the date. He said that the first phase of this meeting, which is related to the diplomatic arrangements for the general guidelines and the subjects to be discussed regarding the reduction of arms expenditures, is almost ready. He said that the technical aspects of the reduction of arms expenditures will be discussed during the second phase of the talks.

Minister Wagner said that President Alan Garcia's proposal of 28 July -- when he assumed his post -- is of a regional scope. Therefore, we believe that this reduction of arms will not only be carried out by Chile and Peru but also that the remaining Latin American countries will gradually follow suit. After noting that this meeting will allow the setting of a foundation for a more coordinated and precise organization, he said that all this should be the result of a gradual process based on firm concepts, in which all the countries involved in this accord may feel that their security and peace are guaranteed.

He ended by stating that this should not only refer to the military and political field but also to the cultural and economic fields, among others.

MISSION TO OFFER ARMS, SHIPS TO ARAB COUNTRIES

PY032159 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1745 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 3 Apr (EFE) — A Peruvian economic and commercial mission, which on 6 April will begin a 33-day tour through Arab countries, will be offering a number of Peruvian-made arms and various types of ships. According to a report released by the press assistant the above-mentioned mission will be headed by Senator Miguel Angel Mufarech. Among the arms to be offered there is a 28.5-cm [as received] mini-submachinegun, with silencer, designed and built entirely in Peru by the Maritime Industrial Service (SIMA). The production rate of this submachinegun is 2,000 units per month and it is expected that this rate will be increased to 4,000, resulting in a yearly export capability of $10 million. SIMA also manufactures a Colt revolver under a U.S. license.

The SIMA shipyards are also in a position to build 45,000-ton ships. SIMA has already built grain ships, tankers, merchant ships, motor ships, floating docks, and warships, including missile-fitted frigates.

BRIEFS

HUANUCO DRUG RAID — Lima, 3 Apr (AFP) — Police sources today reported that a total of 29 tons of basic cocaine paste, ready for shipment to Colombia, 3 clandestine airstrips, 13 boats, 31 guns, sophisticated laboratories, and other equipment have been seized during police raids in the middle of the jungle in Tingo Maria, Huanuco Department, 422 km east of Lima. The sources satted that Colombian drug trafficker Luis Bengumeda and three Peruvian drug traffickers, whose identifies were not disclosed, were arrested during the raid, emphasizing that the basic cocaine paste consignment is the largest seized so far in 1986. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1908 GMT 3 Apr PY]

6TH APRA MAYOR KILLED -- Lima, 3 Apr (EFE) -- Churubamba mayor Hugo Miraval Solorzano, 40, has been murdered by alleged members of the Shining Path. Miraval is the sixth mayor from the social democratic APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] party to have been killed since 1984. Churubamba is located in Huanuco Department, in a jungle region in northern Peru. Two United Left mayors have also been killed in this area. All these actions have been attributed to the Shining Path. [Excerpt] [Lima EFE in Spanish 1355 GMT 3 Apr PY]

UN SECRETARY GENERAL ADDRESSES CONGRESS

PY031738 Paris AFP in Spanish GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 2 Apr (AFP) -- United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said here today that the measures adopted to solve the foreign debt crisis are partial solutions that have thus far applied to the symptoms and not to the real causes of the crisis.

Perez de Cuellar, who is touring four South American countries, delivered a speech before the Uruguayan Congress on the 2d day of his visit to Uruguay. The UN secretary general also met with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias.

In his speech, Perez de Cuellar said that the world's debt has posed a threat to the world economy. The world's debt has not jeopardized the stability of the international financial system because the parties involved have decided to cooperate instead of engaging in a useless confrontation, he stressed.

According to Perez de Cuellar, creditors do not want to ruin debtors because if they did the loans would not be repaid. On the other hand, debtors will not gain anything by declaring themselves unable to repay their debts, because their ratings will be impaired and they will not be granted any new loans. The UN secretary general said that even though it has been admitted that it is necessary to cooperate, the measures -- primarily financial in nature -- which have been adopted so far may not solve the crisis. In addition, such measures are economically inconsistent and politically unwise, he stressed.

Perez de Cuellar commented on the strict economic adjustment plans applied by the debtors, the protectionist barriers imposed by the industrialized nations, and the slump in raw material prices. It would be a serious mistake to let workers despair and to discourage investors, who are essential for the region's development and for the survival of the new democratic governments, he said. He warned that the mere fact that the international financial system has not been allowed to collapse has not solved the debt problem, adding that nothing will be achieved until the debtors are able to resume growth. The debt crisis has long-term effects and calls for more efficient measures, because the current solutions have thus far applied to the symptoms rather than to the real causes, he stressed.

Perez de Cuellar said he will make a special effort in western countries to promote international support, for more equitable relations between the North and the South. In his speech, Perez de Cuellar praised representative democracy and said that the United Nations and the democratic countries share a common belief in their respect for the rights of men. He said that a democrat is usually referred to as a man of principle, as opposed to the man who heads authoritarian regimes and who is usually cynical and violent. It is better to convince than impose, and to reconcile instead of confront, he said adding that reason is better than fanaticism.

Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to travel to Buenos Aires on 3 April.

U.S. HOUSE SPEAKER ARRIVES IN CARACAS FOR VISIT

PA031525 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, arrived in Venezuela tonight in response to an invitation from the Venezuelan National Congress. Mr O'Neill was greeted by the president and vice pesident of Congress, Reinaldo Leandro Mora and Leonardo Ferrer respectively. During his stay in Caracas he will meet with Venezuelan parliamentarians.

CONSALVI COMMENTS ON UPCOMING CONTADORA MEETING

PA031248 Hamburg DPA in English 0125 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Caracas, 2 Apr (DPA) -- Today Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said in Caracas that it is still "difficult" to make significant decisions within the framework of Contadora Group.

In his statements to the press this afternoon, Consalvi made brief comments about the next meeting in Panama of the members of the Contadora Group with the foreign ministers of the Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay) and the Central American foreign ministers. Consalvi said: "This will be the first opportunity in the search for a negotiated solution to the conflict where we will have a straightforward round-table discussion of the problem."

The minister believes that "it is possible" that one of the matters to be discussed will be to set specific dates to approve the document, and he added: "The political will depends on the most antagonistic countries in the area. This is one of the matters that we will explore during this very interesting meeting this weekend in Panama. It is probable that we will determine which countries have the determination to seek a negotiated agreement."

Responding to a journalist, Consalvi warned: "The rumors about the death of Contadora are very subjective." He added: "Regarding the death, there have been many statements, in the United States as well as in other nations. However, the basic principles that drive the group's efforts are receiving more international support day by day."

Consalvi pointed out: "This will be the first time that the Contadora, Support Group, and Central American ministers meet in Panama, and we will have a representative from the EEC, Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, who will represent the message of solidarity and support of this international organization to the Contadora Group efforts."

Regarding Venezuela's position on the Central American process, the minister said: "Venezuela is not leading it; Venezuela has joined the collective effort of Latin America, represented by the eight nations of Contadora and the Support Group." He added: "Any one of us could take the leading position because the eight nations have the same perception of the Central American problem, but we do not want to be singled out in one way or another because we believe that the power of this effort is closely linked to the coherence and consistency of the unity of the Latin American countries."

Finally, Consalvi said that the prospects of the meeting in Panama "are very uncertain" because the antagonism "as well as the inflexibility are increasing. However, I believe that there will be a very open discussion with the Central American countries for the reaffirmation of the peace process, the signing of the Contadora document, and stability and security in Central America."

PEMEX DIRECTOR DENIES OIL EXPORT CHANGES

FL032216 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2045 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 3 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex director Mario Ramon Beteta has said that the price of exporting Mexican hydrocarbons will continue to fluctuate in accordance with the international market. The official denied that Pemex's exports are being maintained at 1.5 million barrles daily and at the moment there are no possibilities for modifying the export policy.

Despite the instability of international oil prices, it is advantageous for Mexico to export oil because of the low production costs, said Ramon Beteta. The Pemex director stressed that oil deposits are located in strategic places which allow for considerable savings in production.

L.A. AMBASSADORS DISCUSS FOREIGN DEBT TREATMENT

FL030256 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2335 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Some Latin American countries will have to declare a moratorium on foreign debt payments and then the international banks might accept renegotiation. This was expressed by ambassadors in Mexico from several Latin American countries. They also expressed that only through solidarity could their voices be heard during netotiations of a political character and not economic. They said that there is no Latin American country that has the resources to pay its foreign debt and adequate political solutions are needed from industrialized countries.

For his part, Brazilian Ambassador Geraldo Egidio da Costa Cavalcanti said the debt should be paid without sacrificing the economic growth of developing countries and that the United States and other creditor nations have tried to obstruct the work of the Council of Cartagena which is calling for a new international order. Argentine Ambassador Facundo R. Suarez said that factors like decreasing foreign trade and falling raw material prices, such as oil, make the possibility of foreign debt payment more unlikely for developing countries. Honduran Ambassador Ricardo Apineda Milla proposed that creditor and debtor countries search for adequate mechanisms so the Latin American people are not seriously compromised by the international banks' payment demands which affect the economic growth of developing countries.

Peruvian Ambassador Juan de la Piedra and Venezuelan Ambassador Guido Groscoors indicated that the foreign debt should be liquidated under reasonable conditions since annual interest payments alone are a large part of the resources earned from exports. Costa Rican Ambassador Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon concluded by saying that political negotiations should be established with debtor nations and that foreign debt requirements should be changed.

BRIEFS

TRADE BALANCE -- The positive side of the trade balance has been reduced by 34.4 percent in 1985. Manufacturing exports decreased 4.1 percent in 1985, as opposed to a 26-percent increase in 1984. A deficit occurred in the manufacturing trade balance in each of the years 1980-1985. In addition, imports increased by 1.7 times in 1985. As a result, the manufacturing trade deficit has increased again. [Summary] [Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Mar 86 p 3 PA]

COSTA RICA

MONGE 'EMPHATICALLY REJECTS' ORTEGA PROTEST

PA031710 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Mar 86 p 2

["Telex" sent by President Luis Alberto Monge to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on 26 March]

[Text] [Mr President:]

Allow me to make the following clarifications regarding your cable of 24 March:

The meeting of the vice presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras has been called to discuss my proposal for the reactivation of trade between these countries contained in letters sent to President Suazo, Mejia, and Duarte on 26 August 1985 and personally delivered to them by Vice President Arauz. The proposal was discussed during a meeting of presidential envoys that took place in February this year.

Although the two actions were public knowledge, the Nicaraguan Government expressed no adverse reaction to them at the time they took place. This is why I am deeply surprised when, 9 months after I made the proposal, Nicaragua considers that it conceals aggressive purposes against that country.

The fact that Nicaragua was not included in the vice presidents' meeting bears absolutely no relation to proposals like those set forth by the democratic community of Central America or the forum for peace and democracy. It is not a "scheme" by the United States or a third country, as your note irresponsibly and disrespectfully suggested. Nicaragua's situation and its choices regarding economic matters, as well as the different nature of Nicaragua's economic problems, which make impossible its harmonious participation in the proposal, were taken into consideration when the invitations were extended. Additionally, the source that will possibly finance this initiative will not accept Nicaragua as one of its beneficiaries, just as some of Nicaragua's current sources of foreign aid are not willing to extend aid to the other Central American countries.

The meeting's purpose will not be to discuss political affairs. These will be addressed during the Esquipulas meeting, which I presume your country will attend. The vice presidents will only attempt to find solutions to the economic problems their four countries are experiencing. The meeting does not intend, as your government appears to believe, to sidestep negotiations between Central America and the EEC.

It goes without saying that Central America, particularly Costa Rica, is aware that Nicaragua is a geographical and historical entity in Central America that cannot simply be ignored.

Regarding your view that Costa Rica committed an immoral and illegal action by supporting President Duarte's proposal, I must point out that the proposal is based on the spirit of the Contadora Group negotiations to advance processes of reconciliation in the Central American countries. I understand that it is not possible for the current Nicaraguan Government to undertake a process of this nature, but that cannot lead me to concur with your opinion on how Costa Rica should handle its foreign policy. We therefore emphatically reject that opinion, stressing that we have always believed that dialogue is the best means to resolve political problems and that in the same way that we maintain that a dialogue should take place in El Salvador, it is also indispensable that one take place in Nicaragua.

PRESIDENT DENIES BILATERAL PACT WITH NICARAGUA

PA040333 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The Costa Rican delegation to attend this weekend's Contadora Group meeting to be held in Panama has been instructed by President Luis Alberto Monge to insist on the fact that no agreement on a bilateral pact with Nicaragua has been reached. President Monge said that this meeting of foreign ministers of Central America, the Contadora Group, and the Support Group will be used to clarify the fact that no agreement has been reached with Nicaragua regarding the border issue. The president added that this issue was presented to the world as if an agreement was forthcoming when the truth is that only talks were held and the bases for an overall pact was agreed upon.

Costa Rica's position regarding the regional problems is that a global solution is necessary, President Monge said. The Costa Rican delegation to the Contadora Group meeting will insist that Costa Rica feels that there can be no bilateral solutions but only global solutions to the problems of the region. Therefore, the delegation will explain that the talks for the appointment of a supervisory and control commission at the common border does not include a bilateral agreement with Nicaragua.

PRESIDENT-ELECT ARIAS REVIEWS REGIONAL CONFLICT

PM031457 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 20 Mar 86 p 6

[Interview with President-Elect Oscar Arias by Jose Comas in San Jose -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: You recently made statements about assistance for the contras, which caused something of a stir in Washington. It is said that you later backed down. What exactly is your stance?

Answer: I need to be consistent with my campaign and the promises I made to the Costa Rican electorate. One of those promises was to struggle for peace in Costa Rica and in Central America. My stance is bound to be that the disagreements existing in Central America should be resolved by means of dialogue and a diplomatic solution -- not by war. I do not believe that the Salvadoran problem or the crisis experienced by the Nicaraguan people can be resolved by means of war. I have decided to have a far more active foreign policy for Costa Rica and, in view of the prestige we enjoy, to turn Costa Rica into an agent promoting peace and democracy.

Question: There are some specific facts. If the funds are approved in the U.S. Congress, they must be conveyed to certain forces said to be in Honduras and Costa Rica. What chance does the executive power -- the president of Costa Rica -- have of preventing this from happening, this assistance from being handed over to the so-called contra groups?

Answer: If the U.S. Government approves these funds for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, I believe they will go exclusively to the forces now on Honduran territory -- not here in Costa Rica. At least, I sincerely intend to enforce our neutrality. When we offered the Costa Rican people, in the electoral process, our desire to continue neutrality, we were speaking with our hearts on our sleeves -- quite sincerely and frankly. We do not wish to be tolerant toward the Nicaraguans opposed to the Managua regime, to enable them to use our territory for military activity.

In our country we have a great tradition of political asylum, and we want Costa Rica to remain the haven of freedom it has always been. We will make room for Nicaraguans persecuted in their own country who want to avail themselves of our political asylum to live, but that is all. We will never allow them to make use of our hospitality to use Costa Rican territory for military activity.

Question: What real chance does the Costa Rican Government have of controlling that border with Nicaragua, of preventing a provocation from occurring; something that would necessitate saying that the contras must be assisted, or one of another nature?

Answer: So far we have not been able to guarantee our neutrality 100 percent. Costa Rica is a country without an army and with a very rudimentary Civil Guard and Rural Guard. A large proportion of that force must be devoted to guaranteeing the Costa Rican people's security here on the central plateau, where 75 percent of the population live. This has prevented us from being able to devote more human resources to guarantee that the border area is not used by enemies of the Managua government. Precisely for this reason we wish to reach a kind of agreement which will enable us to bring in foreign observers in order to enforce our neutrality and to assure the world of the Costa Rican Government's good faith that its own territory is not being used against or by the anti-Sandinist forces.

Question: A Cuban vice minister recently described you as an "intelligent anti-Sandinist." Do you not wish to join in an anti-Sandinist crusade out of political intelligence, or would you not like the Managua regime to disappear?

Answer: I thank the Cuban official for his description. He is right. On the one hand I am intelligent, and, on the other I am an anti-Sandinist. I do believe, like the great majority of Costa Ricans, that the Managua regime should change, that it should return to what were the original promises to the whole world and Latin America, and even more to Costa Rica. No country helped Sandinism more than Costa Rica. We were always told about building a new Nicaragua -- not a second Cuba. Today Costa Rican people of all stripes feel disillusioned, disappointed, and, if you like, betrayed by what has happened over the past 7 years, from 1979 until today. We feel that the setting up of a Marxist-Leninist government in Managua is a betrayal not only of the world but also of the Nicaraguan people, because they never suspected that they were going to exchange one dictatorship for another of a different kind.

Question: A meeting of Central American presidents in Esquipulas, in Guatemala, is scheduled for the days following your investiture in May. Do you believe that a kind of Esquipulas Group -- just as there is a Contadora Group and a Support Group -- could be set up, in which the Central Americans would achieve greater prominence in resolving their own conflicts, or is this unrealistic?

Answer: As the sociologist Max Weber said, the possible is achieved only by struggling for the impossible. It may seem unrealistic, but even if specific results and solutions are not achieved, it seems to me important, even though there are profound differences between us in the ideological field, that we Central American presidents be able to talk and to sit down around a table and explain viewpoints on an agenda on which we would have to agree, because not only political issues allowing coexistence among the various Central American nations should be discussed; the agenda should include economic issues. There is considerable interdependence among the Central American common market and strengthen it. Our people's development depends largely on trade in the Central American area. There are many issues, and we should never shrink from that opportunity for dialogue and creating a forum, even if it is not of a permanent nature, such as the Esquipulas meeting could be. I believe that the idea is worthwhile.

Question: Costa Rica receives considerable assistance from the United States. What chance does the Costa Rican Government have of opposing a request from the U.S. Government to assist those "freedom fighters," or whatever you choose to call them?

Answer: I believe that the United States realizes very well that we offered the electorate peace and a search for political and negotiated solutions to the conflicts experienced by fraternal nations in Central America, and will respect that stance. Dialogue between democracies is always very fruitful. We speak the same language and understand each other well. There must be mutual respect to agree one day and disagree another. I believe that Costa Rica would never expect any retaliation in the economic field because there is some kind of disagreement on foreign policy. I believe that there is a genuine and sincere U.S. desire to assist Costa Rica, especially because we are an exemplary democracy, because there is no country in Central America which has made greater effort to surmount poverty and underdevelopment within a system of democracy, freedom, and peace. We wish to preserve these characteristics. I am absolutely certain that there will be no strings attached to future economic assistance.

Question: Do you believe that Europe -- and, more specifically, Spain -- could play any prominent role in the Central American crisis?

Answer: Undoubtedly. I believe that especially Spain, which has greater knowledge of Latin America and much greater real ties than those that other European countries may have, has a duty toward Latin America, and specifically toward Central America. The assistance Spain could give us is not just in the economic field, because we know its limitations in that field. But it could have considerable influence, as the motherland which it is, in the political sphere. If Spain has taught the world that it is possible to evolve toward an exemplary democracy following an authoritarian government lasting many decades, I believe that it is a good mirror in which many Central American governments can look at themselves. Specifically in the case of Nicaragua, it would be highly desirable for Spain to show the nine commanders that it is possible to set up a really exemplary democracy like the one you have.

RURAL GUARD DEACTIVATES MINES ON BORDER FARM

PA031940 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1833 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Seven powerful mines were found in Costa Rican territory, 1 km from the Nicaraguan border. The mines were found near a house on El Olvido farm on the banks of the San Carlos River. The property is owned by Nicaraguan Calasan Parrales and is located between the Pocosol and (Kubate) Rivers, 1 km from the Nicaraguan border.

Colonel Pedro Arias, deputy director of the Rural Guard, explained that policemen found the mines when they were carrying out an operation to close private airports. He added that Major Luis Alfaro, San Carlos departmental delegate, and officers Edwin Segura, Pocosol district delegate, and Antonio Rodriguez discovered the mines. Apparently a cow stepped on a mine which did not explode. The existence of the mine was reported to the authorities and the police sent the officers to carry out an inspection. Edwin Segura was ordered to deactivate the dangerous explosive devices which can kill a person within a 5-meter radius.

According to the explanation given by Col Pedro Arias, the mines are Czechoslovak-made and contain dynamite and phosphorous. They weigh approximately 3.5 kg, and they contain 500 to 600 flechettes [esquirlas] that are spewed out upon detonation in such a way that anything within 5 meters is destroyed.

The policemen who deactivated the explosive devices reported that they were located on the front and right hand side of the farm house owned by Nicaraguan Calasan Parrales. One of the mines was under a step leading to the front of the house. Whoever climbed the steps would have been blown to pieces. The objective of whoever placed the explosives was to kill Calasan Parrales, an active member of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution who on several occasions has survived other attempts on his life.

The explosive under the step to the house was connected by a thin wire to another device a few meters away. There were four other mines on the right hand side of the house and another concealed behind a tree in front of the house. All of the mines would explode whenever one of them was activated. The house and its occupants would have been hit by more than 4,000 flechetes.

Col Pedro Arias said that the mines will be sent to the Government Ministry and that procedures would be carried out to file another protest to the Nicaraguan Government. Unofficial sources said that since the devices were Czechoslovak-made, it could be presumed that the Sandinist regime was the one that ordered them to be placed. They said that it would be very hard for an individual to buy such explosives in the black market.

CARDINAL OBANDO Y BRAVO RECEIVES PRO-DEMOCRACY AWARD

PA040125 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Summary from poor reception] The Pro-Democracy Association [Aprodem] has presented the Central American Prize to Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo in recognition of his great struggle for democracy in Nicaragua. Political and church representatives were present at the award ceremony that was held at the Colon International Club. Msgr Bismarck Carballo accepted the prize on behalf of Msgr Obando y Bravo. President Luis Alberto Monge was present at the ceremony, and in his speech he praised Obando y Bravo. President Monge said that the award was presented "in recognition of his outstanding work in the defense and promotion of democracy and human liberties."

GUATEMALA

CONGRESS PRESIDENT FAVORS REGIONAL PARLIAMENT

PA030447 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Alfonso Cabrera, president of the Guatemalan Congress, has said that Central America can no longer be the yard where the big powers hold their disputes and that Central Americans should be allowed to mark their own path. When we ask our Central American brothers to support the establishment of a Central American parliament, we are asking them to think things over and realize that only through democracy, clean elections, and respect for ideas and actions in favor of social coexistence, can we overcome the wars and our present situation: the yard in which the big powers are holding their disputes, Cabrera said. That is why I am glad that the Guatemalan delegation to the Latin American Parliament conference, which opens here on Thursday, has submitted a proposal reasserting the Guatemalan people's democratic call and aspirations for progress and development in peace. The Central American parliament should be another mechanism to restore peace in Central America. Cabrera said.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA DISCUSSES CONTRAS, RECENT BORDER INCIDENT

PA031544 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1227 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Telephone interview with President Daniel Ortega by Rodrigo Wong Arevalo -- live]

[Text] [Wong] Good day, Mr President. What prompted you to call Tegucigalpa's Radio America this morning?

[Ortega] Good morning. First of all allow me to greet Radio America and the Honduran people. I seize this opportunity to speak with the Honduran people to reaffirm Nicaragua's disposition for peace and friendship with the Honduran people and Government. We believe this direct contact with the Honduran people is very important because of the Easter week developments during which foreign forces attempted to provoke a confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua. We maintain that this confrontation did not take place. At no time has Nicaragua attacked Honduras. There is a serious problem in the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua; namely the presence of counterrevolutionary mercenary forces that are attacking Nicaragua. They planned to launch an offensive against several Nicaraguan cities, invade our territory, and attack several cities during Easter week. They planned that this would have repercussions in the U.S. Congress, which would prompt its members to favor President Reagan's request for $100 million for the contras. This plan was to be carried out before the vote by the House of Representatives. Its purpose was to influence the vote there by attempting to show the U.S. Congress that the contras are a powerful force that can defeat the Nicaraguan revolution and that the investment of the $100 million currently being discussed in the U.S. Congress, was therefore warranted.

[Wong] Mr President, you are denying our government's version. It said in a communique that EPS members entered Honduras in what constituted a flagrant violation of Honduras' sovereignty through the eastern border area in Olancho Department, specifically in San Francisco de Capire. A Honduran Government bulletin states the Sandinist forces violated Honduran territory and that in the past other rebels had entered Honduras there. It named Jose Maria Reyes Mata, who died in a skirmish with the Honduran Army. What is your reply to that statement issued by our government several days ago?

[Ortega] There is no link between past events in Honduras that involved the government, like the Reyes Mata case, and this issue we are discussing right now. We are discussing the fact that mercenary forces are in Honduras because the U.S. Government has imposed their presence there, and these forces are the subject of a debate on an allotment of $100 million by the U.S. Congress which will allow them to continue attacking Nicaragua. They attempted to enter Nicaragua from Honduras. Then clashes broke out on the border. Undoubtedly, in a border clash, we cannot rule out the possibility that several Sandinist soldiers may have been present, because the border is not marked in any clearly visible way .... [changes thought] although we are aware that the border is marked off, in the field it is easy to become confused and cross it. There is a [words indistinct] of those forces that are on the other side.

We responded to the communique sent by the Honduran Government by clarifying Nicaragua's position that there is no desire to complicate the situation with the Honduran Government, but stressing that we are determined to defend the national territory from the attacks by the mercenary forces that the United States has imposed in a portion of the Honduran territory. One must keep in mind that President Reagan is discussing at this time the need and his determination to send U.S. military advisers to help the mercenary forces outside of Nicaragua. This means that the U.S. military advisers will have to be somewhere. The Americans have been clear when they have insinuated that these advisers will be in the mercenary forces' camps inside Honduras.

This means that they are even planning the incorporation of military advisers. This complicates the deliberations that Contadora has undertaken that contemplate the withdrawal of all the foreign military advisers from Central America. The Central American governments have expressed their willingness to go along with this as part of the Contadora peace proposal. This includes the military advisers that are in each of the Central American countries, and it would imply a sovereign decision by each of the governments in this sense. We are willing to withdraw the military advisers from the area. However, while attempts are being made to overcome this problem...

[7-second break in transmission] for the mercenary forces.

They have taken possession of part of the Honduran border territory near Nicaragua. This presence is an imposition of the U.S. Government.

We understand that this situation existed before the government of President Azcona assumed power. It was a situation created by General Alvarez and former President Suazo Cordova. They gradually began to yield to the U.S. pressure until the mercenary forces were finally allowed to remain there. In Nicaragua, we are defending ourselves from the attacks launched by those mercenary forces.

[Wong] President Ortega, you called us this morning to deny that the EPS forces entered Honduras. However, would you mind granting us a longer interview this morning, taking advantage of the fact that our station has the largest listening audience in Honduras?

[Ortega] (?All right).

[Wong] Mr President, you have manifestly and repeatedly dismissed the credibility of Honduras' statement that members of your country's Army, the EPS, entered Honduran territory during the first few days of Holy Week. Why have you repeatedly dismissed the credibility of Honduras' admission that its territory was attacked by armed elements from your country's Army?

[Ortega] I am not dismissing any credibility of the Honduran Armed Forces. This is not the question. I am simply trying to clarify a situation that the United States tried to artificially create, because it was in the United States where it was announced that Nicaragua had invaded Honduras, that Nicaragua was attacking Honduras. This is [2-second break in transmission] Honduras and Nicaragua. In other words, we do not believe so. There has not been any attack by Nicaragua against Honduras. Therefore, there has not been any invasion of Honduras by Nicaragua. Any action by a state against another would of course be an extremely serious problem, and Nicaragua has asserted and continues to assert that it will never attack any Central American state.

Therefore, the situation at the border area, which the armed forces [not further identified] communique may reflect, is the one stemming.... [changes thought] What the Armed Forces communique is reflecting is, let us say, that there are elements that stem from the situation that has been created at the border area where we have, on the one hand, the Somozist counterrevolutionary mercenary forces -- all those murderers -- who are trying to invade or to penetrate into our territory, and, on the other hand, Nicaraguan troops at the border to defend our territorial intergrity from those mercenary actions. This is the real situation in the border area.

[Wong] Mr President Ortega, why do you think, then, that the Honduran Government admitted that its territory... [changes thought] that the report in Washington about the violation of Honduran territory by Nicaragua was true? In addition, it admitted having captured a large number of EPS troops in Honduras [1-second break in transmission] Hello, hello... [5-minute break in transmission while attempts to restore communications are made]

[Wong] Nicaraguan President Ortega called basically to say that there has not been an invasion of Honduran territory by Sandinist soldiers. He also roundly said that this is a propaganda ploy of the U.S. Government. However, when we asked for his opinion about the attitude of the Honduran Government, admitting that what was reported in Washington was true and that our territory had been invaded, the communication was cut off.

We had other questions for the Nicaraguan president, but he evidently did not agree to answer any other questions from our station. We regret this because this was an eminently journalistic interview. Radio America had been asked [to allow] the Nicaraguan president to address a message through out station in exchange for granting us an interview and making statements about the latest developments between Honduras and Nicaragua.

[Telephone operator] Please talk now.

[Wong] Good morning, will we continue in contact with you, Mr President?

[Ortega] Yes, of course.

[Wong] We thought you had hung up the telephone because you could not answer the question. I want to caution you that our interview is journalistic in nature, and we do not want to inconvenience you. All we want to do is to clarify some aspects.

[Ortega] No problem. What I can see is that we have problems with communication. I went on talking and did not realize that the transmission had been cut off.

[Wong] Well. I repeatedly asked you the question but in a journalistic spirit.

[Ortega] [Word indistinct] don't worry. Ask whatever you want.

[Wong] Mr President, then, why do you think that Honduras, that the Honduran Government roundly admitted that Washington's assertion that Honduran territory had been invaded by EPS members was true. Why do you think our Honduran Government admitted that?

[Ortega] We heard about a statement issued by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat and described it in the response by our Foreign Ministry as a cautious statement about all of these developments. In other words, we have not found in the Honduran Government a desire for confrontation or a desire to create alarm about this situation, which was actually fabricated by the U.S. President's propaganda machinery.

[Wong] Pardon my insistence, Mr President, but you have not given me a clear answer because, in a bulletin issued by the National Security Council, which is chaired by Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo and also includes the Armed Forces chiefs, the Honduran Government admitted it was true that the Sandinists had invaded or had entered Honduran territory.

[Ortega] If you look at the chronology of events ever since the U.S. Government began to make noise and made up the lie that Nicaragua was attacking, that it was invading Honduras, you will find that constantly and through various spokesmen the Honduran Government denied Washington's assertions and that, finally, there was a communique in which they referred to this incursion by Sandinist soldiers but not in the manner that the Honduran Government... [corrects himself] the U.S. Government depicted it -- as an aggression against Honduras. Instead, there was a different nuance [matiz], so to speak, in Honduras' statement.

Let us remember that ever since mercenary forces have been in Honduran territory, Honduras has issued many communiques noting, on various occasions, that Sandinist forces sometimes enter Honduran territory. [Word indistinct] explain that since there is an area where there are clashes, where there is confrontation, where troops have to move about and operate, and the mercenary forces are in Honduran territory launching their attacks, then there is the possibility, or risk, that some soldier or unit will enter Honduran territory by mistake and that undesirable situations will arise.

[Wong] Mr President, two EPS members who were presented by the Honduran Armed Forces during a press conference said that they had instructions to come to Honduras to attack a counterrevolutionary training center here in Honduras. Therefore, these EPS boys deliberately admitted that the Nicaraguan Army issued instructions to attack the contras operating in Honduran territory. What is your opinion of this?

[Ortega] Well, in first place one must take into account that the contras assert that they have their camps, their bases, in Nicaragua. If (?you look at) reports showing Mr Calero riding a burro along with Mr Bermudez in a contra camp, they assert that the camp is in Nicaraguan territory. Therefore, Nicaragua is interested in fighting the mercenary forces and occupying their camps. In other words, this is a defensive line of the Nicaraguan Government which is pursued by our Army.

Now then, regarding the existence or nonexistence of the camps in Honduran territory, well, as I said, this is an assertion by the counterrevolutionaries -- if you say that their camps are not there, see? On the other hand, there being a confrontation in the border area, from which the mercenary forces launch their attacks from Honduran territory toward Nicaraguan territory, what do we find then? We find that this territorial area, that that territorial area gradually becomes a war zone [se va convirtiendo en una zona de guerra], not because Nicaragua wants this but because the very activity of the counterrevolutionaries makes it so. This gives rise to military operations by our Army in the entire border area where, logically, our fighters look for the contra camps because the camps are the life source of the contras. Hitting at the source obviously means that there is less likelihood of the contras being able to carry out larger actions against our people like destroying schools, destroying health centers, murdering women or children, which is what they actually come to do here in Nicaragua.

[Wong] Mr President, by admitting that the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua would become, or becomes because of the circumstances you point out, a war zone, does this mean that your country's Army will not hesitate to attack Honduran territory every time that it is known, that is, when you think that there are counterrevolutionary elements here?

[Ortega] What we want or expect is that these mercenary forces will be controlled and will cease to operate out of Honduran territory against Nicaragua. This is what we want. Also, we have made a concrete proposal and have already formally sent it to the Contadora and Lima Groups. It deals with the creation of a commission for supervision and control along the border area under the auspices of the Contadora and Lima Group countries. Of course, we need the approval of the Honduran Government on this.

We hope that the Honduran Government will consider this proposal. (?In fact), the Honduran Government has considered this proposal on previous occasions. We have even talked with representatives of the Honduran Government on various occasions. Let us say, I think we held our first discussion on this topic in the year 1980 or 1981, when we met at (Guasaule) with General Policarpo Paz and all Army commands. [Words indistinct] a situation that could develop. We talked about joint patrolling at the border area to stop incursions from north to south and from south to north and to maintain control over the border.

Therefore, this is actually the same proposal except that it has been made now in view of the existence of the Contadora Group and the Lima Group, which would strengthen this idea, if we manage to work this out. We believe that if this matter of the commission for supervision and control at the border territory can be worked out we would be taking concrete steps to keep tension from increasing over the situation at the border area.

[Wong] Mr President, you talk about the need for the Honduran Government and Army to control or eradicate the counterrevolutionary groups in Honduras. Now I want to remind you of something. This control is very difficult. Between 1974 and 1978 when the FSLN initiated the war against the Somozist dictatorship, many thousands of Sandinists operated from Honduras territory, and at that time Somoza also said that Honduras served as a sanctuary for the Sandinists. The Honduran Army could never control the Sandinists, save a few who were captured. However, the majority of the Sandinists could not be controlled. Do you not believe that the same situation is repeating itself now with the counterrevolutionaries?

[Ortega] I would say that there is not the slightest comparison, because at that time I had an experience in Honduras. I participated in the creation of the northern front, a guerrilla front in Nicaraguan territory, and we tried to establish a small support base in Honduran territory bordering with Nicaragua. We attempted to do this, but it was impossible. A combined operation by Somoza's Army and the Honduran Army was carried out, and we had to take the base to Nicaraguan territory in the area of Segovia. That is where we established the base because it was impossible, literally impossible to settle in Honduras. We are willing, the Honduran and Nicaraguan Armies are trying to control and eradicate counterrevolutionary activities, and this can be done easily. I say this because I personlly faced this situation, I could not freely enter Honduras; I had to use a clandestine passport, and on one occasion I escaped capture at a Honduran airport. Another time, while on the way to the border with Nicaraguan, there were controls, and we could not pass freely. We had to use a tremendous amount of the clandestinity. It was impossible for us to establish a base, a camp in Honduran territory.

We also tried to establish a logistics base, a place were we could have supplies in the border area where we had the camp in Nicaragua, because we insisted in having the camps in Nicaraguan territory. However, what happened? The people there were captured, Commander German Poares was captured and killed. Pomares was organizing the base and he was captured and the camp dismantled. Honduras would not allow Sandinist activity.

[Wong] Mr President, speaking of the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras, our government has always defended them. According to you, how many Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries operate in Honduran territory?

[Ortega] The counterrevolutionaries say they have as many as 35,000 men and they need arms for them and that a good many of them are unarmed. This is what they say. They say they have this large number of forces in Honduran territory. We feel that the figure is not as large as 35,000 but no less than 5,000. We are talking about more than 5,000 contras who are in [Honduras]. I am not talking about the refugees; they are something else. I am talking about the contras, the military forces organized by the CIA, who have helicopters, large vehicles, CIA advice, and now they are also going to receive U.S. military advisers. This is a mercenary force that surpasses 5,000 troops, and this is why we describe it as another army in Central America.

If we speak of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, we have five armies, an army in each country, and the contra army is the sixth army.

Where are they? They have their bases, their camps, their command posts; they have everything in the Honduran territory bordering on Nicaragua. I understand that this is the situation imposed by the United States on the previous Honduran Government, the Suazo Cordova government, and that it was also programmed by Gen Gustavo Alvarez. They [word indistinct] those mercenary forces thinking that they woudl topple the Sandinist government. We understand this. The fact is that the Americans, Gen Alvarez, and Suazo Cordova sent them there thinking everything would be over quickly, that in a matter of months the Sandinists would be toppled.

The fact is that the U.S. President himself has said that he has no interest in toppling the Sandinists, that he wants to pressure the Sandinists, and he is asking for $100 million for these mercenary forces; he is requesting rockets and radios for these mercenary forces; he is requesting U.S. military advisers for these mercenary forces, which means that we are going to face a very long-term struggle, and those mercenary forces will become increasingly dependent on the United States, a force entrenched in Honduran territory, but with greater technical equipment, with greater material resources, making themselves practically the owners of Honduran territory.

[Wong] Does this mean, Mr President, that $100 million is sufficient for the contras to topple the Sandinist government?

[Ortega] I do not believe that $100 million or $500 million is sufficient. They can approve $100 or $500 million for the contras. It will not topple the Sandinist government. What I am looking at is that the financing has not served because they have received more than $100 million in all of these years. What happens? They are stealing the money, and the American press has reported that [Adolfo] Calero, one of the top contra leaders, is getting involved in millions of dollars of business ventures, doing business with the money they receive. They steal the money. They have no morals or capacity to combat and defeat our people.

What they can do is enter the country to murder the people, to destroy health centers, schools, cooperatives, but they have no possibility even if they get arms, even if they introduce military (?advisers). Proof of this is that the United States is becoming increasingly involved in this conflict. [Words indistinct] are no good. They are becoming increasingly involved, and now they come with advisers. Later they will come with troops. This is what we are facing.

[Wong] Mr President, there is an internal war between the Sandinist Army and what you describe as the counterrevolution, although they identify themselves as FDN and ARDE. However, we are noticing that this is a war of attrition. For example, a few days ago the FDN destroyed a very important electric plant, I believe in a town called Yalaguina, which left over 100,000 people without electricity. Do you not believe that this sabotage will at some point weaken the Sandinist regime?

[Ortega] We must take into account that Latin American economies are weak at this time, very weak. The powerful economies in Latin America are facing a tremendous crisis, the result of the international economic crisis, the result of the U.S. international economic order policies, the result of the Latin American countries' debts. We also have the oil problem; oil has dropped to $10 and $6 and this is a catastrophe for the oil-producing countries in Latin America.

Nicaragua's crisis is worsened by contra activities. However, these activities will never mean the destruction of the Nicaraguan revolution because Nicaragua has broad international solidarity, we receive cooperation from Latin American countries, Canada, Europe, the socialist bloc countries, and Arab countries. We receive a broad range of cooperation that allows us to maintain our country despite great difficulties and despite the damages caused to our economy by the U.S. Government's terrorist policies.

[Wong] Does that mean, Mr President, that the aid you are getting from the socialist bloc countries is a result of the situation the United States has imposed on Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Our policy includes maintaining relations with all of the world's countries. This includes political and economic relations.

I believe that is the option that small countries like ours have. For example: What economic problem is the United States helping Costa Rica, Honduras, or any other Central American country resolve? Is it resolving their economic problems? Their situation does not include a military problem like the one Nicaragua is experiencing. The United States cannot resolve Latin America's economic problem. The Latin American countries are experiencing a tremendous crisis. Latin America is protesting en masse the way in which the United States handles the area's economic problem.

Small countries must seek pluralist economic relations. They must maintain economic relations with Latin America, Canada, Western Europe, socialist Europe, the Soviet Union, the Arab countries, economic relations with the entire world. That is why Nicaragua maintains pluralist relations. We would like to have similar relations with the United States. The United States has rejected these relations. This kind of broad, pluralist international cooperation helps the Nicaraguan revolution and people to defend itself from the U.S. aggression. Spain recently approved important credit lines for Nicaragua. Socialist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, also approved credit lines in our favor. We find that Western European countries have positive attitudes toward Nicaragua. They are allies of the United States, but they disagree with its policy toward Nicaragua. Socialist bloc countries are also helping Nicaragua.

[Wong] Mr President, when you speak about attrition we observe that you do not seem very concerned. Is this in response to something that international observers have said and that revolutionary leaders have been saying for a long time, namely, that the Nicaraguan counterrevolution is helping to strengthen Nicaragua's Sandinist government because all revolutions need a counterrevolution to prop it up?

[Ortega] To a certain extent, the counterrevolution and Reagan's policy have helped strengthen the Nicaraguan people's collective conscience, unity, and spirit of sacrifice. Although the contras constantly repeat that the Sandinist government is bad, that the Sandinist government is to blame for the economic crisis because it is a poor administrator -- they are always saying that -- the people do not believe this because they see the facts.

We do not need to say much to make the people aware of the real situation. The people realize that there, where there had never been a health center before, a health center, a school, a farming cooperative, farming equipment arrived with the revolution. Then they see that the mercenary forces sent by Reagan -- which he likes to call freedom fighters -- arrive and destroy the machinery, the health center, the school, the cooperative. The people see that the revolution makes efforts to progress, and does, while the counterrevolution makes efforts to destroy, and does.

[Wong] However, Mr President, didn't the same thing occur when the FSLN was attempting to overthrow the Somoza government?

[Ortega] We never staged that kind of action. We never destroyed schools because that would have made us an enemy of the people. Whoever destroys schools, peasants' property, becomes an enemy of the people. These people arrive, and if a peasant is growing coffee, they want him to stop growing coffee, and if the peasant does not obey, they destroy his farm or murder him, as they have done with many private growers here. They have murdered many private growers in northern Nicaragua. They have destroyed their coffee farms. Owners of large cattle ranches have been hurt by the counterrevolution. Their relatives have been killed, their farms destroyed, and their animals slaughtered. Those are truly terrorist actions against the people. The FSLN never did that.

[Wong] What did the FSLN destroy during its struggle to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship?

[Ortega] The FSLN was very cautious in the way it confronted Somoza's guards. It fought against Somoza's guard, Somoza's interests.

[Wong] Mr President, the Sandinists seem to be concerned about the presence of foreign military advisers in Honduras. In this case we are referring to U.S. military advisers. However, there are reports of a massive presence of Cuban advisers and advisers from other socialist bloc countries in Nicaragua. There is therefore a balance of foreign advisers in the two countries, with the difference being that in Honduras they are Americans and in Nicaragua they are Cuban or Soviet.

[Ortega] We are not concerned that Honduras has military advisers from the United States or any other country or about how many advisers there are. That does not worry us. We believe that is a right each country has. Each state is entitled to bring in military advisers, to have military support and military resources supplied by another country. Every country has that right. That depends on the relations each country has with whoever supplies that support.

What makes this a serious matter is the fact that a situation of confrontation exists between the United States and Nicaragua. The United States is using Honduran territory to attack Nicaragua. Now it is using American forces stationed in Honduras -- including their means, like helicopters piloted by Americans -- to support the mercenary forces. That is what worries Nicaragua: the conflict. If there were no conflict between Nicaragua and the United States we would not be concerned about the fact that Honduras chooses to bring in a thousand U.S. military advisers, or that Costa Rica wants to bring in military advisers. If our relations were not complicated by U.S. behavior we would not be concerned. However, the U.S. Government is showing a trend that always seeks to attack Nicaragua. It maintains a group of mercenaries in Honduran territory to attack Nicaragua. That totally complicates the picture.

In any event, Nicaragua has maintained its willingness -- and we continue to maintain it -- to withdraw all of the foreign military advisers from Central America, eliminate all the military bases in Central America, and reject the holding of military maneuvers with foreign military forces. That will make Central America a neutral zone, an area of peace that will be free of all foreign military presence. Nicaragua has that desire, and it has expressed it to the Central American governments on a bilateral basis. It has also expressed it at the meetings of the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group.

[Wong] Mr President, most Hondurans do not want war with Nicaragua, because a war with Nicaragua, or any other country, does not help a country that has a weak economy, such as Honduras. Likewise, the majority of Hondurans do not support the idea that a U.S. invasion against Nicaragua might be planned from here. In other words, the majority of Hondurans feel the self-determination of the Nicaraguans should be respected. However, we are concerned about the serious indications that on several occasions the FSLN has infiltrated destabilizing individuals against the Honduran democratic system, claiming that Honduras has the counterrevolutionary groups in its territory. To this effect, we -- as members of this people who want to live in peace with all brother nations -- would like to voice this concern to the effect that by claiming there are counterrevolutionaries here, the FSLN have infiltrated subversive and destabilizing individuals here so that they will affect in some way the democratic system of Honduras. What could you say to that?

[Ortega] I can state that at no time have we established camps of Honduran irregular forces, or revolutionaries, or guerrillas in Nicaraguan territory bordering with Honduras. We have never done that, so it could not be said that if in Honduras there are contra camps, then in Nicaragua we will establish camps of the Honduran guerrillas here. Never, we have never done that. There might be an occasion of some Honduran citizens who are involved in that type of activity and have passed through Nicaragua, just like they might have passed through any other Central American country, going from south to north or from north to south. They might have reached Honduras, passing through the Central American countries neighboring Honduras. However, these are very isolated cases, and the Nicaraguan Government does not have a policy to the effect of promoting that type of activity.

When we bring up this issue of the supervision and control of border areas commission, when we bring up the issue of joint patrolling with the Honduran Army, we do this in the spirit that we are closing right there any such possibilities. There we would be closing right there any such possibilities. There we would be closing possibilities. There we would be closing possibilities that there would be any infiltrations from north to south, and from south to north. That measure would be of mutual benefit.

[Wong] Mr President, international observers and very reliable sources insist that the increase of weapons in Nicaragua and the growth of the EPS is very alarming. Right now Nicaragua has a capacity to fight all the Central American armies put together, from Panama to Guatemela. If the Nicaraguan economy is so weak and has so many difficulties, precisely because of the presence of the counterrevolution, why is there not a balanced growth in that aspect? Nicaragua has a tendency to invest practicaly all Nicaraguan resources in purchasing weapons and increasing the potential of the EPS.

[Ortega] I would like to clarify to you that Nicaragua does not purchase weapons. We have not spent a single cent in purchasing weapons.

[Wong] Who is supplying you with weapons, Mr President?

[Ortega] The friendly countries give them to us. The countries that are friends of Nicaragua are giving us the weapons. We have not spent a single penny. The rifles do not cost us a single cent, the tanks do not cost us a cent, the artillery does not cost us a cent, and the helicopters do not cost us a cent. We have not paid a single cent for the armaments, but rather these weapons are a generous cooperation from friendly countries that want to help Nicaragua defend itself when it is being attacked by a powerful country, such as the United States of America. Naturally, we have invested heavy resources in defense. There are the human resources, particularly, the loss of human life is very high as a result of the U.S. aggression through the mercenary forces. We have developed an army that is completely defensive to face those mercenary forces.

The truth is that no other Central American country is facing this situation, of having a power supporting an irregular force, such as this mercenary force. No power in the world is supporting an irregular force so that it will attack another Central American country. No other power in the world is dicussing in its own congress, how to attack a Central American country, except for the United States, which is discussing in its congress how to attack the Nicaraguan revolution. They are discussing the best manner of killing the Nicaraguan revolution, with discussions that violate international order and law.

Now then, the way the United States is handling the confrontation of the irregular forces -- and this something well known to the Honduran military -- is that in order to confront the irregular forces it is necessary to have a ratio of 10 to 1. In other words, you need 10 soldiers of the army to confront an irregular force, due to its characteristics, the way irregular war moves.

Now then, if Reagan is hoping to strengthen a mercenary force of 35,000, 30,000, 35,000 -- and Reagan has clearly spoken about 30,000 to 35,000 men -- then in order to confront 35,000 men, with the U.S. ratio of 10 to 1, we need 350,000 men in order to confront that mercenary force of 35,000. But right now, (?I do not know) if they have 5,000 or 10,000 men; well then, we also need a ratio of 10 to 1 in order to face that mercenary force. That explains why there is a massive participation in the defense of the Nicaraguan revolution.

[Wong] Mr President, how many men does the EPS have right now, including troops, militia members, and volunteers?

[Ortega] The EPS, as such, is a small force. The large massive force here is the people. Here, we have the confidence, the certainty that we can give the weapons to the peasants, to the people, and this does not go against the government. We are not afraid that the people will rise up against the government. Here, we have been distributing thousands of rifles to the peasants. We have distributed thousands of rifles among the people, in order for them to defend themselves. The people are defending themselves. The Army is relatively small compared to the armed militia of our country.

[Wong] In other words, you are not afraid that at any moment, the Nicaraguan people will choose another option and use the same weapons you have distributed to them for fighting the Sandinist government?

[Ortega] We are not afraid of that. The day the people decide to end this government they can easily do it, because they have weapons in their hands. Here, there are over 200,000 rifles in the hands of the people; over 200,000 rifles in the hands of the people, imagine that. The rifles are in the hands of the peasants, the workers, all over the place. The people want more weapons, naturally, because they feel they are being threatened, and they want to defend themselves. We cannot build up an army of 200,000 men. That would be too expensive for the country. The country's budget could not take that. Thus, our defense rests on the organized people. We have an army that is small, relatively speaking.

[Wong] Mr President, with the victory of the FSLN government over the Somoza dictatorship, we always understood that there were various ideological factions within the FSLN. Later, when the FSLN took over power, we observed how these factions (?faded away) and the other factions accused the Marxist branch of having seized control of power. This is the way you broke with Commander Cero. Why did the FSLN government decide to adopt a radical stand toward Marxism?

[Ortega] In the first place, this issue of the factions and so forth, that is a lie, an exaggeration of facts. True, there are some facts there, but these are the normal contradictions that are evident in a political organization. There is no political organization in the world that does not have different points of view, and they voice them in the various contradictions. Then, here, in applying the government platform of the FSLN, there were many discussions. Some did not want us to give the land to the peasants. Some people, like Pastora, did not want us to distribute the land among the peasants. Pastora had been a landholder, he owned an estate, and naturally he felt his interests were being affected when we distributed the land among the peasants. Many did not want us to affect the latifundists. We had a commitment with the peasants, to distribute the land among them, even if we affected the latifundists. The land owners had to be affected, and we did affect them. Thus, that provoked negative results among some people who had not accepted that.

We decided to nationalize the banks, the natural resources. Some people did not agree with that.

They thought the revolution only meant removing Somoza and continuing in the same manner, without nationalizing the banks and the natural resources, without distributing the land, protecting the landholders. Naturally, this provoked a conflict between those who thought the revolution only meant removing Somoza. When they noticed the revolution was distributing land among the peasants and beginning to affect the landholders, that it was protecting the land tenants, that the revolution was planning to nationalize the banks, exports, and natural resources, then this created negative reactions on the part of those who were not truly interested in the revolution helping the people. That is natural, all revolutions encounter these situations. As I have said before, when there is a social issue, an human issue, a moral issue that goes beyond individual interests, then we come across the same situation.

For example, Jesus Christ was first surrounded by a group of apostles and later there was a traitor, there was Judas. Even Christ had a Judas. Now, imagine in a revolution like this one we also find traitors such as him.

[Wong] Mr President Ortega, we think that the Marxist definition of the Sandinist government makes precarious a system that could be ideal to these underdeveloped countries such as the mixed economy system, because we see that there are daily reports in Nicaragua regarding the arrest of businessmen, the confiscation of goods, and attacks on the freedom of the press against the only opposition newspaper, that is, LA PRENSA. Mr President Ortega, does this imply that the Sandinist government, I mean the FSLN of this government, will not tolerate a mixed economy in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Well, we have defended the mixed economy system and will continue to do that, we continue to defend a mixed economy. The truth is that in Nicaragua we have promoted agrarian reform, not to establish a great state enterprise, but to distribute land among the peasants. Therefore, where there was previously an owner of a large estate, that is, an owner of 10,000 manzanas of land, there are now 1,000 peasants who own those 10,000 manzanas.

That is, before there was only one person who owned 10,000 manzanas of land; now 1,000 peasants own their own plots of land at the expense of a large estate owner. We are actually, in a certain way, multiplying private property to benefit the peasants, not large estate owners who only owned idle land for recreational purposes and was poorly exploited. We are now giving land to the peasants and turning them into landowners; therefore private property has been multiplied in our country.

If you (?examine) our agricultural production, you would find that 80 percent of that production is in the hands of a private, patriotic sector belonging to the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen. That is, 80 percent of the production of coffee, cattle, and cotton is in the hands of peasants, of small- and medium-size peasants, and even some large-scale efficient producers.

The mixed economy element is also present in the industrial sector. We could say that there is a 50-50 split. We are not interested in eradicating the mixed economy model; quite the contrary, we are reaffirming it. However, the media continues to publish political news in their own style; I have LA PRENSA and BARRICADA with me; I have LA PRENSA's Wednesday, 2 April edition in my hands.

[Wong] You mean LA PRENSA of the Chamorro family?

[Ortega] The Chamorro family, that is correct. They report on the activity of the Social Christian Party [PSC]. This party [word indistinct] statute reforms.

The PSC refused to participate in the elections. [Words indistinct] nobody persecutes them for that. There are no measures against freedom of the press. There are controls due to the situation we are experiencing; we cannot allow reporting as if the country were living in normal conditions, as if we had no war or no aggression.

[Wong] LA PRENSA has complained that the government has even censored news regarding the activity of the holy father, John Paul II. If the Sandinist government believes that news regarding the pope is dangerous to the stability of Nicaragua, could we assume that other news deemed to be even more dangerous could actually lead to the final closure of the paper?

[Ortega] That is not true; that is an exaggeration by LA PRENSA, because [words indistinct] LA PRENSA has featured Msgr (John Paul Gol), the secretary of the apostolic nunciature, on the front page. He has been sent to other places [word indistinct] in Honduras and Nicaragua. He is being sent to other places. LA PRENSA yesterday published a large picture of the Holy Week's via crucis religious activities. There is no religious persecution. We do not murder priests; not even one priest has been murdered since the triumph of the revolution. Somoza murdered priests before the revolution. LA PRENSA reported on the via crucis and on the people who participated. That statement you made is an exaggeration.

[Wong] However, Mr President, Msgr Obando y Bravo is complaining that there is persecution by the Sandinist regime against the Catholic Church, especially against him and Priest Bismark Carballo, the archbishopric curiate spokesman.

[Ortega] Due to the characteristics of the process here, many priests and religious people are involved in political matters. Therefore, you find priests involved in political activities defending the revolution and others criticizing the revolution. That is part of the pluralism and freedom of thought that must exist; it shows the priests and Msgr Obando y Bravo himself are free to express their thoughts because, after all, they are Nicaraguans and can rightfully express their views.

Therefore, when Msgr Obando y Bravo speaks his mind, he is expressing a political view. In fact, there is no religious persecution of any kind. If you consult the bishops in our country other than Msgr Obando y Bravo -- he is one of the 10 bishops here in Nicaragua, and each bishop has his own diocese -- if you talk with the bishops of each diocese, you will find out that there are no major problems in each diocese and that there are no religious problems in Managua. Actually, there is a political controversy.

[Wong] Why are you not allowing Radio Catolica to air Msgr Obando y Bravo's homilies?

[Ortega] No, Radio Catolica was punished because it violated rules established by the Media Directorate on several occasions. The station itself acknowledged that it violated the rules; that it made a human mistake. There is a note by the Radio Catolica directorate admitting that. Therefore, when laws are violated, punishment follows. There are pacifist priests in U.S. jails now for demonstrating against Reagan's policy in Nicaragua. They are captured for violating the law. This happens in the United States, which claims to be very democratic and free. Priests are jailed and tried for simply protesting. In Nicaragua, we have simply enforced the law without jailing anyone; we simply took measures against a station that violated the law.

[Wong] Mr President, do you think that the events that have taken place at the border area, specifically in eastern Honduras and northern Nicaragua, could lead to more regrettable results? Specifically, could they lead to a direct war between Honduras and Nicaragua?

[Ortega] I think that they will never lead to a war between Honduras and Nicaragua. However, I do think that they could lead to a war between the United States and Nicaragua. That is very clear. The North Americans are mobilizing their helicopters, sending military advisers to mercenary bases; as U.S. military advisers are killed, as we down U.S. helicopters for flying in combat and conflict areas, the North Americans get increasingly involved in an attempt to save the contras and in reaction to Nicaraguan defensive measures. We could be faced by a war between the United States and Nicaragua.

We face the risk of the Vietnamization of the conflict. The Vietnamization of the conflict has started, because the United States is using military resources it has in Honduras to protect mercenary forces.

[Wong] Some time ago a Honduran helicopter which overflew the border accidentally due to a strong wind in Nicaraguan territory, which carried Honduran civilians having nothing to do with the counterrevolution and the Army, people who came from the southern area of Isla del Tigre, was downed, and, as a result, five or six Hondurans were killed. Do you not think that Nicaragua's fear is exaggerated to the point that it does not fully identify between a war aircraft and another that does not pose any threat to Nicaraguan territory?

[Ortega] You might recall that Gen Gustavo Alvarez was commander of the Air Force at that time.

[Wong] No, Mr President, excuse me for interrupting you, but General Walter Lopez was already in command then.

[Ortega] Yes, Walter Lopez. The problem is that the switch was a recent one. There was very great tension during the tenure of Gen Alvarez between Honduras and Nicaragua. I must admit that. When Gen Walter Lopez took over, the situation began to (?ease). However, tension inherited from the previous commander had not been totally overcome. In addition, there was also a lack of communication allowing us to avert regrettable situations such as that one. I think that these factors had a bearing on the situation.

[Wong] Then you justify such an attack and the death of Honduran civilians.

[Ortega] No, I do not justify it. I lament the death of the Honduran citizens traveling on that helicopter. It does not make us happy. It does not make us happy. [repeats himself] I think it was an unfortunate incident. Unfortunately, there was a situation of tension in the border territory. At that time there was much tension with the United States. You must know that we have a problem of permanent tension with the United States. It has been threatening us with attacks and with bombings. It deploys its warships a few miles from our coasts and uses its airplanes and helicopters for overflights. Therefore, there is a constant tension and alert by our Armed Forces, and such a tension can provoke such an unfortunate situation.

[Wong] Mr President, what opinion do your commanders of the Sandinist revolution and you as president of Nicaragua have about the recent change in the command of the Honduran Armed Forces, considering that in the Honduran army it is a key position for deciding the state of the relations between Honduras and Nicaragua? We now have General Humberto Regalado Hernandez as commander of the Honduran Armed Forces. What analysis have you undertaken? Do you think he is more dangerous or less dangerous than Alvarez Martinez?

[Ortega] We are respectful of the decisions of the Honduran Armed Forces. We have spoken with President Azcona.

We spoke with him in Guatemala during the inauguration of President Vinicio Cerezo, and we expressed our respect for the decisions adopted by the Honduran Government and Armed Forces. We hope that the Honduran Armed Forces will maintain a position in favor of peace, the normalization of relations between Nicaragua and Honduras, and the eradication of the mercenaries from the Honduran territory.

[Wong] But President Azcona has already asked the U.S. Government for military aid to repel the Sandinist aggressions. What is your opinion of our president's request to the U.S. Government?

[Ortega] I think these are elements that emerged in an arbitrary manner from the United States. The United States was the one that announced this matter about the $20 million to help Honduras. The truth is that this has been nothing but a means used by the North Americans to get more directly involved in an action to protect and defend the mercenary forces that are being defeated by our forces.

[Wong] Thank you for being so nice as to grant us such a long interview. I would like to ask you this question. Here in Honduras there is much speculation about the internal situation of the Nicaraguan Government. It is said that you and your brother, Humberto, do not have a great relationship with Commander Borge, that there is very marked and evident jealousy over the power that Borge holds, and that there is an estrangement between you and your brother and Commander Tomas Borge Martinez. How true is this? What can you tell us, because apparently cordial relations between you and commander Borge no longer exist?

[Ortega] That is totally false. That exists only in the minds of the CIA experts who spread such rumors to try to give the impression that in Nicaragua there is division and instability so that in this way they can promote a confrontation that will enable the United States to utilize it to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. That is totally false. No such thing exists among the leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution. There is the greatest harmony and brotherhood. We have common viewpoints. We discuss. We disagree on some occasions. We discuss and in the end we reach agreement. We act in a rational and reasonable way.

[Wong] Mr President, is there any possibility that the Sandinist government will hold a dialogue with the counterrevolution?

[Ortega] Well we have insisted that we must speak with the chief of the counterrevolution, and he is the U.S. President. The chiefs of the counterrevolution are in Washington. It is in Washington where the support for the contras is being discussed. It is in Washington where they are discussing whether to grant $100 million, $70 million for military aid, $30 million for humanitarian aid; it is in Washington where there is talk of sending U.S. military advisers to the contras. Therefore, we must speak with Washington. We must speak with Washington, which is the chief of the counterrevolution. In other words, the Robelos, the Cruz, the Caleros, the Bermudez are just the instruments of the counterrevolution. They are instruments that cannot exist without the master, which is the United States, which is the one that decides, pays, fees, directs, and arms them. Without that support, the counterrevolution would disappear. Therefore, we have to speak with the chiefs of the counterrevolution.

[Wong] What about the people who are fighting there on the border area and the Nicaraguan mountains?

[Ortega] I repeat that we are willing to speak with the United States. With regard to these people who are involved in armed activities, we have a very broad amnesty. We promulgated it in January 1985 and we have been maintaining it since then, so that all those people, without exception, who are directly or indirectly involved in the armed counterrevolutionary activity can take advantage of the amnesty.

Therefore, there is a broad amnesty. It remains in force. More than 1,500 Nicaraguans have taken advantage of that amnesty. In other words, more than 1,500 people involved in armed counterrevolutionary activity have taken advantage of that amnesty, and they are now working. The revolution even gives out land to those who are peasants so they can work. It provides them with job opportunities so they will not be unemployed. That is the answer that we have for them.

[Wong] Mr President, 2 days ago the Honduran Congress approved a motion to urge the Nicaraguan congress to issue an amnesty for all the Nicaraguan political prisoners. Do you think the Nicaraguan Government will accept this request from the Honduran Congress?

[Ortega] Of course we bear in mind the Honduran Congress' request. What we have done here is to gradually release many prisoners through partial pardons. That is what we have done. We will report this to the Honduran Congress so it will be aware of the efforts Nicaragua is carrying out in this regard. Now we cannot think about a total amnesty for all prisoners because we are experiencing a situation of confrontation. If peace comes, if there was no war or aggression, then conditions woud exist to think about that.

[Wong] Mr President, this lengthy interview that you have granted to us on the air has been heard by the great majority of the Hondurans because you have spoken on Radio America, the station that has been proven to have the greatest audience in Honduras. This lengthy interview, which is the result of your request to make a clarification about the border area incidents, has been possible thanks to the unlimited freedom of expression of thought and freedom of information in Honduras. If in the future, someone from here in Honduras would like to speak over a Nicaraguan media that is not official, would he be permitted to do so?

[Ortega] I would say even in the official media. The state radio is at the disposal of the president of Honduras; if the Honduran president wants to speak however long he wishes, he has at his disposal the state radio to grant an interview like this one. It is also at the disposal of the commander of the Honduran Armed Forces. The news media are open for the opinion of the Honduran leaders.

[Wong] In conclusion, we leave Radio America's mike open to you if you want to make a final statement. Before this, I would like to thank you for being so nice in answering questions for this lengthy and intense interview.

[Ortega] Well, I want to thank Radio America for the opportunity to talk with the Honduran people. I want to tell the Honduran people once again that we are brother peoples. We are brother peoples and there is no reason why the Central American peoples, the Honduran and Nicaraguan peoples in particular, should be in conflict or have problems. Nicaragua will never, will never attack Honduras. It will never attack Honduras. Nicaragua hopes that with the government of President Azcona and the leadership of the Armed Forces we can overcome this situation, which is the product of the presence of the mercenary forces and their camps in Honduran territory and their launching of attacks against Nicaragua. We know that this situation has been inherited by the Honduran Government from the previous administration, which was the one that accepted the development of this U.S. plan to establish those mercenary forces in Honduran territory. Nicaragua's doors are open to all the Hondurans. They can come to our country without any restrictions. Let the Hondurans come to our country to see Nicaragua's reality, to see whether or not there is political pluralism, to see whether or not there is religious persecution, to see whether or not there is press freedom and trade union freedom.

In other words, Nicaragua's doors are open. Our borders are open so all Hondurans who wish can come to our country. We are confident that in a not too distant future we will have overcome this situation of tensions and crisis and that peace will exist in Central America.

[Wong] Well, at least today you have to open the door for Honduran Economy Secretary Reginaldo Panting. He is going to collect $55 million that Nicaragua owes Honduras and that, according to our government, Nicaragua apparently does not want to pay us right now.

[Ortega] It is not that we do not want to pay, but the problem is that we are all debtors here. [chuckles] In other words, Nicaragua owes Honduras, Honduras owes Guatemala and other countries. It is a chain of debts. Even the big Latin American countries, Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina, are the big debtors. They have the biggest debts. Can you imagine that we small countries wouldn't have debts? If the Argentines, the Mexicans, the Venezuelans, and the Brazilians have multimillion debts, how could we small countries not have debts?

[Wong] Mr President, when will Nicaragua pay its debt to Honduras?

[Ortega] Well, we will talk with him now to find a formula that is in line with our financial situation. It is as if Honduras' creditors came and told Honduras to pay what it owes. It would be unable to do so. Honduras would be unable to pay all that it owes. Costa Rica would also be unable to pay all that it owes. Guatemala would also be unable to pay all that it owes. Not even Argentina, Brazil, or those countries could pay all that they owe. They cannot pay even part of what they owe. The crisis is big. Therefore, we have to find reasonable formulas to deal with this economic problem, which is a common financial problem for all the Central American countries. Above all, we must promote a policy of trade and see how we can make the Central American economy more dynamic, because the Central American problem will be gradually resolved to the extent that we have an effective economic policy with some autonomy, with better interrelation, and, therefore, we can achieve a strong economy.

[Wong] Very well, Mr President. Thank you for calling us at Radio America. It has been a pleasure to speak with you, and we hope that this will not be either the first or the last time that we have the opportunity to exchange views and to have you submit to a real bombardment of questions so we can inform our people about a number of situations that exist between these two peoples who have traditionally been brothers linked by geography and the brotherhood among the Central American countries. Thank you very much and good day.

[Ortega] Thank you very much.

U.S. RECIPE FOR CHILEAN SITUATION 'MAY FAIL'

PA040040 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The angry popular protests in Chile and the armed actions against Augusto Pinochet's regime have reached such a point that Washington has openly asked itself whether it should enforce the same recipe it used in Haiti and the Philippines in Chile. At least this is what Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said a few days ago when a document on violations of human rights in Chile was presented by the United States in Geneva. All this indicates that Washington is thinking about washing its hands of Chile and at the same time trying to make the world forget that it was the White House and the Yankee intelligence organizations that planned, financed, and promoted the September 1973 coup d'etat that unleashed the worst sufferings ever for the Chilean people. His Yankee bosses seem to think that Pinochet has fulfilled his role and that in the face of the uncontrollable popular anger that no longer avoids repression but rather confronts it, changes are necessary to prevent, according to Reagan, the Marxists from once again taking over power.

The White House residents are obviously frightened by fierce demonstrations like the one staged by the Chilean women on 8 March and the demonstrations staged to repudiate the beheading, by the police, of communist youths Jose Manuel Parada, Manuel Guerrero and Santiago Latino 12 months ago. These two good examples of the levels of the popular struggle in Chile despite the brutal repression are combined with a growing wave of armed actions that have materialized in bombings of official installations, the power system, and police and army garrisons. A few days ago these bombings reached a record figure of 40 bombings in 24 hours.

The Machiavellian minds of the Reagan crew compare these situations with those that exploded in Haiti and the Philippines on the days before the fall of Jean-Claude Duvalier and Ferdinand Marcos, and are undoubtedly preparing the same recipe for the Chilean situation. To do this, they are probably already looking for people in the rightist sectors who are most willing to forget the past in exchange for their former privileges. The only difference is that in Chile there are different factors that must be considered, and these are the traditional organization and political awareness of the people. This could make the absurd imperial maneuvers fail.

AREA OPPOSITION TO U.S. CONTRA AID NOTED

FL031807 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The Latin American continent has continued to score Reagan administration's policy in Central America. A Socialist International regional conference, which began in Santo Domingo, gave international support to Nicaragua in its clashes with the United States. In a press release, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat said U.S. support given to anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionary bands should end. In Buenos Aires, President Raul Alfonsin criticized U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contras and opposed Reagan's policy which encourages armed actions in Central America. He told this to Thomas O'Neill, who visited Argentina during a Latin American tour. O'Neill denied having changed his position in opposing U.S. aid to the contras and said diplomacy cannot be practiced with a shotgun.

BAHAMAS

CHANGES WEAKEN NO CONFIDENCE VOTE ON PINDLING

FL032244 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 27 Mar 86, p 1

[Text] An opposition resolution for a vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Lynden Pindling has been emasculated. When the House of Assembly's agenda for next Wednesday was released yesterday, it was discovered that someone, presumably the speaker, had extracted the "teeth" of the material. Eight of the 20 paragraphs contained in the resolution had been altogether "expunged." It is understood that the speaker may inform the opposition that these matters have already debated and there is a rule that says the same matters cannot be dealt with more than once in the same session. FNM [Free National Movement] spokesman Arthur Foulkes said the opposition has noticed the changes in the resolution and it intends to deal with the matter when the house meets Wednesday.

Among those paragraphs deleted include reference to the fact that the recent commission of inquiry report evidenced that "the prime minister and his cabinet have failed to govern this nation in a manner which either upholds the rule of the law or exemplifies their adherance to standards of public morality, but have so allowed the increasing prevalence of corruption, influence peddling, bribery, victimization, and abuses of power to go unchecked as so prevade the highest ranks of the government itself." The paragraphs dealing with the prime minister's finances and reference to the family island development fund, from which documents show over $100,000 of a $300,000 payment was diverted into the prime minister's mansion; the commission's findings that one cabinet minister fronted for the mafia and another took payment from a drug trafficker; and commission evidence that the prime minister did not disclose all of his assets in relation to the law, have also been removed. A reference to a reported quote by former Kendal Nottage, to the effect that people should not be interested whether he worked for or stole his money, has been eliminated.

ST LUCIA

COMPTON SAYS HE WILL NOT LEAVE OFFICE

FL031841 Bridgetown CANA in English 1847 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 3, CANA -- Prime Minister John Compton used the wrap-up parliamentary debate on his 1986 budget here Tuesday to dispel rumours that he was contemplating giving up the political leadership of the St Lucia Government. Speaking at the end of debate on his 19th budget presentation, Compton, who will be 60 next month, declared: I'll present right up to the 25th...I am still a young man in my teens as far as budgets go. Responding to opposition claims that this would be his last budget before elections, Compton said the life of the current sitting of parliament would end in May 1987 and elections would be called anytime between now and then. Let no one try to preempt the prerogative given to me in the Constitution, he stated.

The other main political group here is the opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP), led by businessman Julian Hunte. Compton said that during his 30 years in parliament he had seen the budget grow from EC10 million dollars to 232 million, the allocation for education move from one million to 39 million dollars and the number of children at secondary schools from 1,600 to 7,700. It took a lot to get there and I will not permit this to be destroyed without a fight, he said.

OPPOSITION ISSUES STATEMENT ON FUEL CRISIS

FL030008 Bridgetown CANA in English 2334 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 2, CANA -- The opposition Working Peoples Alliance (WPA) in Guyana today told the government that it must bear full responsibility for the country's fuel crisis.

The party was commenting in a statement issued here on President Desmond Hoyte's linking of the fuel shortage here to the non-purchase of Guyana bulk rice by oil-supplier Trinidad and Tobago.

Hoyte had said Trinidad and Tobago had stopped buying bulk rice from Guyana last December and because of this his government was finding it difficult to pay the twin-island state for the level of supplies needed.

But the WPA, in a statement, said: ... President Hoyte and the People's National Congress (PNC) must bear full responsibility for the present fuel crisis in Guyana.

It added: Since 1981, when Trinidad and Tobago established its oil credit facility to help its Caricom (Caribbean Community) partners, Guyana has been a major beneficiary, but it has failed to honour its debts payments to Port-of-Spain.

At the same time that the PNC was paying no money to Trinidad and Tobago, the WPA said, payments were being made to foreign multinationals like Alcan, Bookers, and Chase Manhattan Bank for nationalised assets.

The party charged that Hoyte's explanation of causes of the fuel crisis in Guyana were, to say the least, lacking in frankness and, in its insinuations, lacking in fairness to the generosity of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The opposition party said the government has created a scandal of Guyana being the biggest debtor nation to Caricom.

The WPA added: It owes Trinidad and Tobago at least 200 million U.S. dollars. Its indebtedness to the Caricom multilateral clearing facility is almost 100 million U.S. dollars and that indebtedness was a major factor in wrecking the facility.

It owes the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) at least 6 million U.S. dollars in interest payments alone.

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PANAMA'S DELVALLE OPENS CONTADORA MEETING

PA051918 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Speech by Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle to the Contadora and Support Groups and Central American Foreign Ministers in Panama City -- live]

[Text] Gentlemen Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group; Gentlemen Foreign Ministers Deputy Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Support Group; Gentlemen Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Ministers of Central America; Mr Foreign Minister of the low countries [as heard], Gentlemen Ambassadors: We wish to warmly greet and welcome all of you and all special envoys to this meeting because you are bearers of hope, which is an essential element of peace, that stable and lasting peace that we need as much as we need cooperation for the economic and social development of Central America and which is urgently needed today -- more than ever before -- in the face of the unfortunate tensions that are evident in the region, which is made up of the brother nations with which we have close personal, historical, and geographic ties.

Panama will always be a site for holding meetings that seek understanding and dialogue. Our amphictyonic spirit is and will continue to be one of the most characteristic traits of our country. That spirit is also the reason for our inevitable participation in the Contadora Group, to which we are privileged to act as the host today.

For Panamanians, the word peace has become a highly valuable and appreciated asset. It has become almost the creed of our national conscience. Due to our nearness to the drama being experienced by our Central American brothers and our unique geographic position that facilitates communications, we quickly see what takes place in the region and the repercussions on the rest of the world. That double condition forces us, first of all, to express deep and grave concern over the alarming events in the region, about which the international press reports daily. Second, we issue a firm call to all those who truly love peace to redouble their efforts so as to prevent an escalation that will bring greater conflicts and misfortunes. Those efforts should involve actions to achieve the easing of tensions, to achieve respectful dialogue, tolerance, and intensification of education for peace so that we will all learn to value, protect, and cultivate it. Finally, we must provide hope that the cause of peace with dignity, harmony, and understanding will triumph. Those hopes, of which you are the main messengers, fill us with healthy expectations, reasonable optimism, and new determination to continue working for peace, because we believe peace is our destiny and that all Central American peoples demand and deserve a time of rest and a prompt end to the agony they are suffering, an unjust and contagious agony that we must help stop and eradicate.

We are convinced that the cause of an honorable and just peace, honorable understanding, and fraternal harmony will prevail among the Central American peoples, that the guns will cease their ominous sound, and that a dawn of development and prospertiy will mark the rebirth of a region located in the center of the continent and that from there that rebirth will spread to the rest of the two Americas.

The economic difficulties being experienced by Latin America, which are caused to a great extent by the unbearable weight of servicing the foreign debt, the unjust trade relations, and the lack of international resources to reactivate productive activities, are also a very worrisome source of social tensions and threatening conflicts.

That is why, echoing a generalized feeling among the Latin American peoples, we have offered Panama as the site for the heads of state of our countries to examine all those issues and lay the foundations for a renewed solidarity of concepts and actions to promote Latin America's economic development and prosperity, which will be one of the most vigorous guarantees of peace.

All of us are working tirelessly for the arrival of that new era with the conviction that the advice and opinions expressed in this meeting will be heard by the main actors of the Central American drama, who have in their hands the instruments to solve the conflicts and whose political will is solely decisive in turning these times of darkness and war into times of light, harmony, and peace.

Messrs Ministers: I take this truly propitious opportunity to extend to the chiefs of state of the countries that you represent cordial greetings of constant friendship and deep gratitude for their contribution to the cause of Contadora, which is perhaps the most beautiful agreement of objectives that has ever existed in America. Thank you very much.

Gutierrez Views Prospects

PA052125 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Interview with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez by Julio Miller in Panama City on 5 April -- recorded]

[Text] [Gutierrez] We believe that the discussion of bilateral problems should not distract us from the main objective of the Contadora process. For 3 years we have stated that the problems will be resolved through what I would say is the boldest, most comprehensive, and most concrete treaty every drafted on the Central American problems. Our hope is that the deadlocks will be overcome at this meeting and that we will set a date for a meeting of plenipotentiaries to discuss the two points still pending so that we will be ready to sign the document as soon as possible.

[Miller] What is your view of the delay in the signing of the Contadora peace document and some sectors' assertions that such a delay has enabled Nicaragua to arm itself to continue to promote violence in the region?

[Gutierrez] Well, we hope that the Contadora process will have the happy ending that it should in view of the efforts that have been made. The only happy ending that the Contadora process can have is the signing of the document. I do not want to comment on why one or another of those who have disagreed have delayed this, but this process has an objective, and under no circumstances must we deviate from that objective.

[Miller] In Latin America, Costa Rica is the democratic nation par excellence. In your opinion, how much longer will it take Contadora to achieve the signing of a peace agreement?

[Gutierrez] Well, last year we established a period of time, and the only thing we obtained in that time was a resounding refusal from the Nicaraguan Government. I would not like to again establish a period of time, because the important thing is to sign the document as soon as possible.

[Miller] In view of Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge's statements, what will Costa Rica's position be if nothing specific comes out of this meeting with regard to peace in Central America?

[Gutierrez] Well, we would have to seek new alternatives. The problem is that if for 3 years we have considered Contadora the sole alternative, we would not like to deem it necessary to seek new paths, when in reality we already have a well-worn path. Although President Monge did not make such statements, they were not aimed at hindering the process, but at pointing out Costa Rica's interest in speeding up this process.

C.A. Ministers' Statements

PA052116 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1817 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Amid strict security measures, Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle opened a new round of negotiations of the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and other countries of the area that will lead to signing the final document and thus end the hostilities in Central America. Prior to the opening of this new round of negotiations with 13 Latin American foreign ministers, we interviewed Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, and Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras. In the first place, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto said the U.S. Government has very few plans to put an end to the multimillion-dollar strategic support for the aggressors of Nicaragua, pointing out that on the same day that President Ronald Reagan refused to talk with the Contadora foreign ministers he was meeting with the contra terrorists.

[Begin recording] [D'Escoto] (?He sent us) a very good message that day. He refused to meet with them, but on that same day he met with the terrorists of the so-called contras, on that same day. However, he refused to meet with foreign ministers of other very important Latin American countries. This is a clear message that the United States supports terrorism and violations of international law and is opposed to the peaceful negotiations that the Contadora and Support Groups are now promoting.

[Unidentified reporter] What does Nicaragua want specifically in order to sign the document?

[D'Escoto] In the first place, let us not speak about signing a document, as we are not at that stage now. As you well know, we are at the stage of negotiating a new document. After it had already been said that there would never be any new negotiations, as you might well remember in September 1984, we again engage in new negotiations -- naturally under U.S. pressure -- and of the text that is being negotiated now, about 70 percent has already been negotiated and agreed upon. Now then, we must negotiate those aspects having to do with the issues of security, military development for the defense of sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of each of the states. That is where it is said: Well, we cannot continue talking about freezing and reducing armaments when we are being attacked by the strongest military and economic power of the world, and when the President publicly says that he will continue and even increase [support to the contras] and is becoming directly involved in the struggle, as we saw during Holy Week when he committed himself to sending military advisers. This is something he admitted publicly: sending military advisers to Honduras or Costa Rica to advise the contras. Under such circumstances, how can it be reasonable to tell a country that is the target of such an aggression to reduce or even plan to eliminate its Army? That is absurd, but that is what Caraballeda and Punta del Este say. That is why it is said that in order to continue negotiating it is necessary that all aid to irregular forces come to a halt. However, the United States says it has nothing to do with that. [end recording]

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Castillo told Radio Nacional that the main purpose of the 13 foreign ministers' meeting in Panama is to lay the groundwork for the final conclusion and signing of the act of Contadora, although he pointed out there are still some points having to do with security and control of armaments yet to be resolved.

[Begin Castillo recording] This is undoubtedly part of the Contadora efforts, and on this occasion I understand we are here to establish the method and timetable for concluding the Contadora document on Central American peace and cooperation. To this effect, the main goal of this meeting should be the signing of this document, as it is the document that contains all the legal and political factors capable of creating the conditions necessary for peaceful coexistence in Central America, naturally within the spirit of the declarations of Caraballeda and Punta del Este that contribute to the philosophy and main objectives of the Contadora act. These are not necessarily points of conflict, but points that must be worked out, and these are the points having to do with security, verification, and control. On this basis, we must and should be able to make progress. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras stated that in spite of the recent incidents between his country and Nicaragua, the outlook for peace does not seem affected and that the problem of hostilities in Central America is greater. [sentence as heard]

[Begin Lopez recording, in progress] ...as an action of security and diplomatic action. Likewise, as a diplomatic action, we have not wanted it to appear as a war action. We have tried to keep the situation within certain boundaries, in order not to affect the outlook for this Contadora meeting, the peacemaking efforts, with the border incidents that took place during Holy Week. We have not received any specific proposal, but it might be announced this morning. We do know that the Nicaraguan Government has suggested or directly proposed that initiative to the Contadora Group countries. We believe that the fact that there are 13 foreign ministers here in addition to an EEC representative means that there is something more than just a bilateral border problem. Rather, the situation obviously has a greater dimension and, why not say so, even a worldwide dimension. [end recording]

Consalvi, Wagner Comment

PA060201 Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish 0015 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group resumed their deliberations in our capital today with their colleagues from Central America and the Support Group, which is made up of Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. Simon Alberto Consalvi, the foreign minister of Venezuela, a member-country of the Contadora Group, said the following about today's deliberations:

[Begin Consalvi recording] Innumerable obstacles have cropped up throughout the years in the process for peace in Central America, but I would say, without being too much of an optimist, that we are all making a great effort to ensure that this meeting of the 13 foreign ministers, who are meeting together for the first time, will be truly useful and significant and will demonstrate, in the final analysis, that we Latin Americans are competent and have sufficiently clear vision to find a formula for the solution of our own problems. [end recording]

Peruvian Foreign Minister Alan Wagner was also questioned by the local and foreign press.

[Begin Wagner recording] We have concentrated on matters related to concluding negotiations on the Contadora Document and the complementary measures that are contained in the Caraballeda message. [end recording]

'Significant Progress' Reported

PA061903 Paris AFP in Spanish 1643 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Panama, 6 Apr (AFP) -- The Contadora Group has made "significant progress" in recent hours in its effort to establish a timetable for the final negotiation and signing of the document for peace and cooperation in Central America, diplomatic sources reported today. The 13 Latin American foreign ministers have been meeting since Saturday in Panama to negotiate formulas with the Central American governments in order to conclude the peace negotiations which the Contadora Group has been advancing for the past 3 years.

Sources at the meeting said that the timetable for signing the peace document will be extablished this afternoon and that it would include calls for at least three more meetings at different levels in April and May. The sources added that the signing of the document for peace and cooperation in Central America was tentatively proposed for some time between 31 May and 15 June. Apparently the foreign ministers of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica) have accepted the proposed timetable.

However, some sources acknowledged their concern that this agreement may become frustrated by Nicaragua's "inflexibility," as it has conditioned progress in the regional negotiations on a "halt in the aggression" against the Sandinist revolution by the United States. However, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia has told AFP that Nicaragua "is maintaining a positive attitude" and that there is confidence that the meeting of the 13 foreign ministers will achieve its mission.

Moreover, sources in the meeting said that the "apathy" of the Costa Rican Government, which leaves office in May, could pull momentum away from the final peace efforts. However, beyond these obstacles, optimism seemed to be spreading on Sunday among the Central American, Contadora Group, and Support Group foreign ministers.

Some participants explained that the advances made in the past few hours were prompted by a change in the Contadora Group's strategy, which stressed "bilateral contacts" over plenary meetings, where differences arise and become pronounced more quickly. In this regard, the sources said that consideration was even given to the possibility that during the final round of consultations the Contadora Group foreign ministers may travel to each of the Central American capitals before convening regional meetings.

Debates Extended

PA070129 Paris AFP in Spanish 0057 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Panama City, 6 Apr (AFP) -- The Contadora Group was still trying tonight to achieve the "political consensus" of the Central American countries for the final peace negotiations in the area.

However the announcement that the sessions will continue proves how difficult the task is. The meeting of the 13 Latin American foreign ministers, who since Saturday have been discussing formulas to complete the negotiations started by Contadora 3 years ago, was scheduled to end at 1700 on Sunday. However, at the last moment it was reported that the meetings will continue, possibly until midnight or early Monday morning.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia told AFP that "political aspects are prolonging the talks." However, he confirmed his optimism regarding the outcome of the talks.

Meanwhile, Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez has said that his country is willing to sign the Contadora Act "if there are guarantees" that its articles will be complied with and if there is no haste in setting a date for signing. He also warned that the border problems between Honduras and Nicaragua "must be resolved with an over-all framework and not bilaterally."

To Meet in Special Session

PA070723 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0707 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Panama City, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Contadora meeting being held in this city concluded at dawn today without setting a deadline for the peace negotiations in Central America, and therefore it was decided to call for a special session this morning. The five Central foreign ministers have not reached a consensus on the final communique proposed by the Contadora Group and the Support Group, following 16 hours of negotiations.

At the end of today's session, which concluded at 0100, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorse Abadia Arias said that they have not reached an agreement on the "foreign interventions in the area" and "several other opinions on the deadline" proposed for concluding the draft of the regional peace treaty.

Foreign Ministers Comment

PA070809 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0752 GMT 7 Apr 86

[By Agustin de Gracia]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Following lengthy conversations over the last 2 days, the Contadora Group did not obtain a consensus of the Central American countries for setting a deadline for the peace conversations of the region. The Contadora and Support Groups have proposed that the negotiations conclude in the 1st week of June, which apparently all the Central American countries, with the exception of Nicaragua, agree upon. The Sandinist diplomats, according to diplomatic sources, have maintained their stand of not negotiating any military commitments of the peace document so long as the United States does not cease supporting the "contras."

"We want to make a supreme effort and try to reach the consensus," Panamanian Foreign Minister Abadia Arias said. The Panamanian foreign minister reported that "some foreign ministers" will not attend tomorrow's meeting, but he did not identify which ones. Abadia believes that an agreement can be reached, "but we cannot guarantee that," he added.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi pointed out there have been difficulties: "We know we have many, many obstacles."

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount, the only Central American foreign minister who was present at the end of the meeting, was very pessimistic about the meeting, officially convoked for Saturday and Sunday. "There is no possibility of reaching an agreement," Salvadoran Vice President and Foreign Minister Castillo said. Castillo insisted that Nicaragua is the only nation that does not accept setting a deadline for the peace negotiations.

It was impossible to learn the opinion of the Sandinist delegation as both Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco have not be seen by the press since early Sunday morning.

"Tomorrow, tomorrow," said a member of the Nicaraguan delegation to a group of newsmen who tried to learn the reaction of the Managua government to the statements by Castillo.

Ministers Returning Home

PA070553 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0516 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Panama City, 7 Apr (REUTER) -- The foreign ministers of 13 Latin American nations today began to return to their home cities following 2 days of conversations on the pacification of Central America that were noted for the disagreements over military issues. However, some of the foreign ministers said they were optimistic about a possible agreement by the Central American countries to establish the date for signing the much-sought peace plan for the region prepared by the Contadora Group.

The conference -- which was attended by representatives of the five Central American states, the Contadora Group, made up of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela, and its Support Group, made up of Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay -- was subjected to strong pressures to reach specific results in its search for a negotiated solution of the regional conflict. However, up to last night it was difficult to specify what the result of the negotiations was.

Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras said that the delegates thought it was possible that the Central American countries -- who are undoubtedly divided in ideology -- might sign the Contadora Group peace treaty that emphasizes the demilitarization of the area in conflict. "I feel optimistic," he told newsmen shortly after the multilateral dialogue closed last night. However, there are still some disagreements over military issues, including the topics of reducing Armed Forces and the military maneuvers, he pointed out.

Salvadoran Vice President and Foreign Minister Rodolfo Castillo Claramount said that all of the Central American countries, with the exception of Nicaragua, might agree to signing the peace document by the end of May. The Latin American diplomats who participated in the conversations said that the meeting was marred by the growing frustration resulting from Washington's policy toward Central America, where three countries are facing insurgents' warfare. "The main problem is that the United States insists on military solutions for the conflict," a diplomat commented during an informal conversation.

MINISTERS ANNOUNCE NEW WAGE-PRICE POLICY MOVES

Sourrouille Speech

PY050327 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Address to the nation by Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille over radio and television on 4 April -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Good evening. Two months ago I announced several initiatives intended to stimulate exports, capital goods investments, and housing construction for the purpose of giving a push to the economy. At that time, I also talked about the 1986 budget that we were submitting to the nation's honorable Congress for approval.

Today, I will announce another package of new rules, to control the main economic variables and make them fit the predicted inflation rate of 2 percent per month. The objective of the changes is the same as that of the economic-reform plan that was implemented on 15 June 1985: to consolidate the country's prospects for growth with stability. In the past 9 months, that objective has been attained, and this can be seen by everyone.

Today, we can confirm that we have pulled out of the economic recession. With some exceptions, but in general terms, the economic activity is in the process of recovery. This is good news.

As for incomes, we have sufficient information to be able to say that the purchasing power of wages remains at the same level of June 1985. The increased buying power obtained through the abrupt drop in the inflation rate has drastically changed the situation prevailing in the months before the implementation of the Austral Plan, when price increases every month neutralized the nominal regular monthly salary increases. The aforementioned increased purchasing power was not reduced by the accumulated inflation over the past three quarters, first, because of the wage increases granted in December; and second, because before and after December, the private sector and the public sector granted increases in total remunerations.

Still regarding incomes, I would like to make an additional comment on the price of fresh food items. The main component of the inflation registered over the past 9 months was the price of fresh food items. We have admitted on previous occasions the responsibility we have regarding the possibility of becoming more efficient in the marketing process. The instructions given to the new officials of the Interior Commerce Secretariat are to correct this inefficiency. But we also want to stress that part of the phenomenon involving the price of the fresh food items cannot, over the short term, be amenable to the government's direct action. The existence of a growing demand, the seasonal variations of supply, and the shortage of supply of some products have pushed the relative prices of these food items above the levels at which those prices stood when the Austral Plan went into effect. We believe that this food price rise has justifiably heightened concern over the variation in the purchasing power of salaries.

Of course, the structural problems of the Argentine economy have not yet been totally resolved, and it is understandable that dissatisfaction and conflicts should emerge. But today we have the basis laid down, ready to build and consolidate upon it the nation's effort. The changes we are announcing today consist essentially of a package of new rules to minimize costs and tension in an economy that operates at low levels of inflation, and at the same time, to keep those costs and tensions from becoming a source of imbalance that will hinder the growth recovery.

Today we can assert that the rules of the Austral Plan have accomplished their intended purpose. Nine months of experience have been sufficient to put behind us the expectations associated with the previous 10 years of high inflation, and to verify that it was possible to pull out of recession and begin to grow with low rates of inflation. To maintain the same initial rules would be a mistake. The time has come to change them, and to replace them with other rules. As with the previous ones, the new rules should permit Argentines to develop a joint and coordinated action with new objectives. Today, the objective is no longer to terminate hyperinflation, because this has already been done.

The objective of the new rules is to reinforce the growth process that is underway and to stabilize inflation. We want to stress that the coordination of prices, salaries, and government-administered variables constitutes now, as before, an indispensable factor for growth with stability. But the framework will now be flexible. And this greater flexibility implies that the necessary coordination should result from the rational and responsible behavior of the economic and social sectors, as well as of the institutions charged with implementing public administration.

The guiding principle of the changes being introduced is to make, with some frequency, minor adjustments in the main variables so as to avoid deterioration of real wages, the emergence of imbalances in public finances, and the loss in competitiveness of our exports. Regarding the exchange rate, we will implement a small devaluation of the austral, setting the price of the U.S. dollar at 83 cents of the austral. This readjustment is not intended to make up for an accumulated imbalance, because we do not believe the austral parity has fallen behind. The readjustment is rather intended to give an additional incentive to our exports, particularly the agricultural exports that are suffering a severe drop in international prices in the wake of the commercial war among the northern countries.

The government wishes to reiterate once again that it is willing to give as much support as it can to agricultural production, which is not only a genuine source of foreign exchange, but also of growth. Furthermore, the new exchange rate will increase the flexibility of any future currency exchange policy. From now on, there will be small adjustments directed at preserving the international rate of exchange of our currency.

The rule for the adjustment to public-sector rates and utilities provides for small period corrections aimed at security stability while markedly improving public finances. As a whole, the prices of commodities and services supplied by public enterprises will increase in April by 5 percent on the average. However, increases will be prorated. The objective of this procedure is to reduce as far as possible the impact which these corrections may have on the workers' income and ex-expenditures.

Only gas and electric power rates will be increased more than 5 percent. These rates will go up by 6 percent. It must be made clear, however, that the electric power rate for low-consumption users will rise by only 4 percent. Furthermore, while the prices of most fuels will increase by 4 percent, gasoline prices will increase by approximately 8 percent. This hike is clearly directed at improving state finances while having very little impact on the expenditures of the average consumer families.

Bus, railroad, and subway fares will not be increased in April. In subsequent months the prices and fares of public services and utilities will increase at the rate of 2 percent per month.

This adjustment of utility rates has been prompted by distortions in the originally budgeted expenditures of the public sector. Strict compliance with the rules and regulations having to do with salaries, which will be announced shortly, will ensure that budgetary targets set for the remainder of the year will be fulfilled. The government plans to strengthen its control over the management of the state organizations where most distortions originated.

The rules and regulations concerning exchange rates and utility rates that we have outlined, as well as the ones on salaries that the labor minister will announce shortly, call for appropriate adjustments to the prices policy. In this regard the government has decided to move from a system of frozen prices which, we must admit, has been quite flexible, toward a system of controlled prices. The government wants the private sector to progressively recover its role in establishing prices and we hope this will be achieved in a spirit of responsibility and social solidarity. In the short term this will allow the government to focus its attention on supervising the compliance with the agreements that enterprises and corporations may negotiate.

As a rule, prices will have to follow the scale established by the salary policy for salary hikes. The price policy we will now announce has several aspects. First, price agreements will be sought for products that occasionally glut the market and for raw materials and components that comprise a large share of costs production of other commodities. In the near future the Domestic Trade Secretariat will hold talks with enterprise and corporations to negotiate the papropriate agreements. This secretariat will also make public the general rules and regulations regarding ceiling prices, cost transfers and cost-margin definitions.

Price increases for the commodities not included in this category will continue to require advance permission from the domestic trade secretariat. The government plans to reduce progressively the number of commodities subject to this procedure to the extent permitted by the normalization of the market. In the second place, action will be taken to enhance the supply of staples, especially fresh and perishable foodstuffs, demand for which has been growing steadily since June 1985. In some cases it will be necessary to keep ceiling prices for some of these commodities and cut down on the distribution and marketing profit margins.

The main thing, however, it to achieve a steady supply, independent of fluctuations and defective marketing mechanisms. The government plans to enlarge the network of supermarkets, of community stores and consumers' cooperatives. Foodstuffs will be imported whenever supply is short decline, either for seasonal reasons or monopolistic maneuvers.

Barrionuevo Speech

PY050312 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color in Spanish 0022 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Speech by Labor Minister Hugo Barrionuevo to the nation over radio and television on 4 April -- recorded]

[Text] A few days ago, in my role as labor and social security minister and in the name of the national government, I outlined the country's social and labor situation and I explained the bases of a program to undertake the most important aspects of the reforms to the labor relations system, participation by the social sectors, and income policy.

I explained the need to stimulate dialogue to achieve its institutionalization as a rational mechanism to progress in a clear, honest, and sincere negotiation that will lead us to solid sectorial and intersectorial agreements for the future. On that occasion, I explained the progress that has been achieved in these 2 years of democracy, something that we Argentines have had to fight for, and all of us are now committed to its consolidation. I very especially recalled that as of June 1985 we began to experience a stage of economic stability.

This valuable victory, which was achieved with the efforts of everyone and especially of those who have less, will now allow the country to have genuine growth, an indispensable prerequisite for the permanent welfare of the population as a whole. We are sincere when we propose basic changes in order to solve social problems.

This is why we emphasize that we are not going to come out ahead by dealing only with salary increases if these increases do not reflect the growth that occurs in our economy and if the wealth that this growth generates is not distributed equally. We know very well that -- and we have a very rich experience in this area -- nominal increases only lead to price increases, to a deterioration of the currency, and to a return to galloping inflation: thus we would all be living in chaos, uncertainty and speculation. This fact was stressed recently by the economy minister.

We are at the dawn of the 21st century, and this is why we want to modernize the labor relations system in order to achieve new models of participation; to induce a change in conduct so that the social factors, represented by the unions and business organizations, do not exhaust their discussions on salaries and prices. We want them to try to enrich those discussions with new proposals.

The proposals that I have formulated have far from closed the doors on debate. They are intended to stimulate dialogue and seek a democratic consensus between the social forces. We said during the course of the Social Economic Conference in December 1985 that we would revise the income policy during the first 3 months of 1986. When we outlined our proposals on 19 March, we clearly said that we were waiting for answers and proposals in order to sit down at the table of social dialogue. That is why today we must outline the instruments pertaining to the income policy:

1. The private sectors that are included in the collective bargaining committees will be allowed to negotiate their salaries from April to December on the basis of the inflation rate that has been forecast for 1986, between a minimum increase of 18 percent and a maximum of 25 percent. The increases that result from those negotiations must be distributed proportionally every 3 months, and the system that has been forecast for 1986, between a minimum increase of 18 percent and a maximum of 25 percent. The increases that result from those negotiations must be distributed proportionally every 3 months, and the system that has been provided will give the overall salary guidelines that will be in force until 31 December 1986.

2. The state enterprises and/or organizations whose workers use the collective bargaining committee system will be allowed to negotiate their salaries in the manner described in point No. 1 and within the inflation rate that has been forecast with a minimum of 18 percent and a maximum of 21 percent, thus establishing a factor of solidarity and equity in the distribution of the public sector's resources, which the state must face with what it has in the budget.

3. A 5-percent salary increase as of 1 April will be granted to the National Public Administration sector with periodic adjustments based on the budget guidelines for the 1986 administration seeking, as I stated in my previous message, to preserve the workers' purchasing power. Within this overall framework, the progress being made regarding personnel policy will allow the introduction of more flexibility at this progress becomes consolidated. The offering of university training in administration in the near future is one of the measures designed for this purpose.

4. Continuing with our overall salary policy and our policy of fair distribution, the minimum income of pensioners will be increased by 14.3 percent. As a result, pensioners will receive a minimum income of 80 australs and the rest of the beneficiaries of system a 5-percent increase. These increases will be implemented in April.

5. In order to balance the income level, those workers and pensioners with a family will be granted a family subsidy increase of 12 percent over that established for March.

6. The basic minimum wage will be increased by the same percentage as that of pensioners income. Therefore, it will be established at 80 australs.

7. We have sought to equitably distribute the burden. This is why we have placed emphasis on helping the lower-income sectors.

More proof of this is the guaranteed social salary which has been set at 100 australs and which corresponds to workers who fall under the labor contract law, special statutes, and the national public administration. This salary is in effect as of 1 April.

The tools and laws implementing the wage measures I have just announced will be disclosed in the next few days. These are promises we made. To delay adopting this decision would only have harmed the workers. With these specific announcements we have opened the doors for collective bargaining within the guidelines of our possibilities.

We urge each and every union leader and businessman who may sit at the negotiating table to sharpen his capacity and, in fully exercising his respective responsibilities, negotiate as much as possible so that agreements he may sign may safeguard society's interest and, particularly guard against unemployment.

Fellow countrymen: only a few sectors in the world are not currently affected by the economic crisis. Everyone is aware of our recent past. Nobody, therefore, can say he does not know the reasons for our crisis. Therefore, we only do what we can. We are aware of the current difficulties because we are also experiencing them. But we Argentine citizens have the necessary moral and material reserves to overcome our past and continue to build the future, which requires our solidarity. Thank you very much.

CGT Response

PY060336 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2156 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr (NA) -- The CGT [Central Confederation of Labor] today denounced the "enforcement of the most savage phase of the war economy" announced last night to the country as "a direct attack on the needs and hopes of the people." The CGT said that "the government wants no agreement other than the one it already has with international usury."

The CGT says that "the government is solely responsible for implementing a new system for freezing wages. It has tried to disguise this system as a labor-business discussion that lacks any flexibility."

In a communique released this afternoon, the CGT points out that "the situation is now clear: On one side, the government has its adjustment plan: the shrinking of the people's work and consumption capacity." On "the other side is the organized labor movement, the national political opinion with no commitment to foreign opinion, and the millions of workers who cannot get health care, clothing, and education through words and promises."

In the document entitled "The Second Phase of the Attack on the People's Economy," the CGT says that "hoping to get our support, the government wants us to become accomplices of this new subjection to hunger and unemployment to which the entire working and economically inactive population of the country is going to be condemned." The document says: "Once again social reality is forced into the narrow molds of an economy aimed at satisfying the unacceptable demands of international usury." The document adds: "This is a challenge to the legitimate capacity to defend the basic rights of active and retired workers."

The CGT document says that "on one side, the government plan advocates misery and slow death," and "on the other side is the struggle for the people's right to life and dignity." The document adds that "the people, armed with the truth and the strength of justice, will defeat not a government but a plan of destruction, which if accepted, would become collective suicide."

The CGT harshly criticized the announcements made last night by Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille and Labor Minister Hugo Barrionuevo by saying that Sourrouille "gave the guidelines of hunger" and that the labor minister "does not exist," and "he announced without blushing that we will remain unhappy and unable to buy even the minimum consumption needs."

The document adds: "Does the government know how many goods and services that are basic family needs have become a sad and nostalgic memory for entire families with salaries that do not provide them with enough to eat?" The document says that the salary increase announced last night is "a condemnation to collective hunger, underwritten by those responsible for it but not by the CGT." The CGT also criticized the 25-percent ceiling on wage hikes for this year, taking into account that ever since the implementation of the plan attacking the economy of the people wages have fallen by 36.C percent, which will never be recovered.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR SUPPORTS CONTADORA INITIATIVES

PY050405 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2151 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (EFE) -- UN Secretary General, Peruvian citizen Javier Perez de Cuellar, today stated that "we fully support efforts by the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group" on the eve of the meeting they will hold in Panama. During a press conference today at the UN Information Center in Buenos Aires, Perez de Cuellar asserted that "our countries (Latin American) are the ones that hold the solution to the Central American conflict in their hands."

"We must prevent alien influences in the area" said the UN secretary general, who today held a meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. This afternoon Caputo will travel to Panama to attend a meeting of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) and its Support Group formed by Argentina, Peru, Brazil and Uruguay. Perez de Cuellar noted that "when I talk about interference I think that the ideological aspect of the Central American problem should not be overemphasized. Basically, the problem is of a very important socio-economic nature but not of an ideological nature."

"Therefore, there is nobody more qualified than our countries, and I say this in my capacity as a Latin American and not as UN secretary general, that are acquainted with the problems of the region, to find a solution free of alien influences to the problem." added Perez de Cuellar. I believe that foreign influences -- referring to the United States and the Soviet Union -- will only contribute to worsening the Central American problem.

He noted that in order to understand the problem "the socio-economic problem must be taken into account but from an overall and political point of view. All the developed countries should contribute to improving the living standards of the Latin American countries as a means to peacefully solve the conflicts." Perez de Cuellar ended by stating that "a solution to the Central American problem can be found but outside the context of the East-West confrontation, because this is exclusively a Latin American problem."

Denies Falklands Proposal

PY062329 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1830 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (NA) -- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today denied having delivered to the Argentine president a proposal for a tripartite government of the Malvinas Islands by Argentina, Great Britain, and the United States. Perez de Cuellar said he had not brought "any proposal" and denied reports that Alfonsin had delivered to him an Argentine proposal. He said: "I have come without a proposal and I am leaving without one."

Perez de Cuellar made these remarks at Jorge Newbery Airport shortly before leaving the country after a 3-day official visit. He said he held "interesting and extremely useful talks" with President Alfonsin and Foreign Minister Caputo. He also described his visit as "positive" for strengthening ties between Argentina and the United Nations and noted that issues such as the Malvinas, the foreign debt, and the Central American military conflict (Contadora) "concern not only the Argentine Government but the United Nations as well."

Perez de Cuellar said he had "a clear idea of the Argnetine position," which he will be able to convey to London in May "because I will always try to serve as a bridge between the two governments." Perez de Cuellar visited Argentina as part of a tour of Latin American countries during which he met with officials of Brazil, Peru [as received] and Venezuela.

POLICE GUARD FOR U.S. MISSIONS REINFORCED

PY051901 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Apr 86 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- The federal police have tightened security at Brazilian airports, ports, and borders after the U.S. Embassy asked for reinforced surveillance to guard against a possible Libyan attack. Federal Police Department Director General Romeu Tuma has said that he is unaware of any concrete fact proving a CIA charge that the U.S. diplomatic missions in Brazil will be attacked by Libyan terrorists. However, he said that "if there is smoke, it is because there is a fire somewhere."

In Sao Paulo, U.S. Consulate assistant Jose Cavichioli on 2 April asked Federal Police Superintendent Marco Antonio Veronezzi for federal and military police cooperation. Veronezzi said that the police guard will be reinforced at the Consulate building, which is already protected by U.S. guards, at a building next door where consulate officials live, and throughout the entire neighborhood.

The U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro has also asked the military police to reinforce the guard outside the consulate's building on Presidente Wilson Avenue. Joseph Marek, the U.S. Consulate press attache, has said that on orders from the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, internal protection in the U.S. missions in Porto Alegre, Recife, and Salvador has been reinforced. Even the house of Alfonso Arenales, U.S. general consul in Rio de Janeiro, is under police protection.

Acting Itamaraty spokesman Fernando de Melo Barreto has said that the Brazilian Government has no reason to rule out the possibility of the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia being attacked by Libyan terrorists. He said that the responsibility for stating that the U.S. Embassy may be attacked rests with the U.S. Government, which has asked the Brazilian Government for police protection, which has been granted.

Fernando de Melo last night read a 4-point note that contains the Brazilian position on this issue. The note, which was read to the journalists, says: "The U.S. Embassy believes that there is a Libyan threat," and "the standard procedure in such cases is that the host country where the embassy is headquartered should provide appropriate police protection."

The note adds: "If the U.S. Government tells us of a possible attack, we have no reason to doubt it. We act in compliance with the rules of international coexistence, under which we have to protect and guarantee the security of the foreign diplomats accredited to the Brazilian Government."

The Libyan Embassy has made no comment on the CIA charges. Libyan Ambassador Faruq al-Seayti and Press Attache Salt-Ralah have refused to comment on the charges, which were reported in the 2 April issue of O GLOBO. In Washington, a high-level official of the State Department Counterterrorist Bureau has told O GLOBO that the bureau has no information on possible Libyan terrorist attacks against the U.S. missions in Brazil.

U.S. CULTURAL CENTER HIT IN DYNAMITE ATTACK

PY041327 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 1115 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] [In progress] ...was knocked down near the Plaza San Martin by the explosion of a stick of dynamite. The explosion destroyed windows in nearby buildings. There was a similar attack on the main door of the Pedro Martinto store, a farming machinery and car dealership, located on 1150 General Varela Avenue in Brina district, near City Hall. A series of synchronized attacks took place shortly before midnight. Apparently some of the attacks were diversionary. Police immediately combed the city, searching mainly in shantytowns, and arrested many suspects.

The Peruvian-U.S. Cultural Institute was one of the objectives of the attacks, and its guard Vicente Davila Venavides was wounded. He was hospitalized in the 2 de Mayo hospital. Other objectives included a branch of La Victoria bank, located at No. 4 Mexico Avenue, and of Banco del Sur del Peru, as well as the La Salle school, a headquarters of the Nationalist Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party, on La Mar Street in La Victoria neighborhood, and the Hogar store of Paseo de la Republica Avenue.

EARTHQUAKE KILLS 16, DESTROYS 2,000 HOUSES

PY062357 Paris AFP in Spanish 2219 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 6 Apr (AFP) -- At least 16 people died, 170 were injured, and 2,000 houses were destroyed by the earthquake that hit Cusco and 40 other towns of the sacred Inca Valley on 5 April. This information was released this afternoon by Cusco Prefect Julio Ladron de Guevara, head of the local civil defense board, who provided a preliminary assessment of the situation. The earthquake registered 5.8 degrees on the Richter scale. Thus far, the tremor has been followed by 9 aftershocks. The prefect said that a state of emergency has been declared in this area in southeastern Peru, 1,155 km from Lima.

14 TERRORISTS DIE IN LA MAR PROVINCE

PY041430 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1310 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Command issued a communique reporting that 14 terrorists were killed during two clashes in La Mar Province of the Ayacucho Department on 27 March. Army members also found 10 caves where the subversives lived and kept a large amount of weapons and Shining Path propaganda.

ARAB GROUPS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANE CRASH

PA041839 Paris AFP in Spanish 1807 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Beirut, 4 Apr (AFP) -- Two organizations -- the "Arab Revolutionary Brigades" and the "Egyptian Revolutionaries" -- claimed responsibility today for a suicide mission that caused a Mexicana de Aviacion Boeing 727 airliner to crash, killing 166 people.

In a typewritten communique in Arab dated in Cairo and Beirut and delivered to a Western news agency in the Lebanese capital, the two organizations claim that the "hero-martyr Mohammad Mustapha Mohsen al-Mash'ur" caused the destruction of the Mexican airliner in reprisal for the U.S. show of force in the Gulf of Sidra and an Israeli air raid against a Palestinian camp in Lebanon 27 March.

The communique, which enclosed a black-and-white photograph of the youth, who appeared to be approximately 20 years old, did not indicate his nationality, however. "We announce," the communique signed by the two organizations states, "the destruction of the Mexican airplane that crashed on 31 March 1986 as the result of a martyr operation in reprisal for the U.S. imperialistic military attempt to invade the territory of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. [quotation marks as received] It "is also a symbol of reprisal against the Zionist-fascist-U.S. raid against the (Palestinian refugee) camp of Miyah wa Miyah in southern Lebanon." This operation left a toll of 10 dead. "We assume full responsibility (for this operation), the note adds, by virtue of our commitment to the masses of our Arab nation ummah totally independent of all international or official Arab considerations."

"Any attack by the United States or the Zionist entity will entail (on our part) a harsh and implacable response that will not take into consideration international concerns, but only those of the masses of our nation," the communique states. The communique ended with slogans critical of the "Mubarak-Abu Ghazalah regime" (Egyptian defense minister), American imperialism, and Zionism, and the last tribute to honor the "victory of the masses of our Arab nation."

Claim Doubted; Security Tightened

PA051315 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0737 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Apr (EFE) -- The Mexican Government has redoubled security measures to protect the lives and property of travellers using Mexican airlines and airports, a Government Secretariat communique has reported.

The office of the attorney general of the republic has strengthened the guard posts at the entrances and exits of airports, redoubled surveillance at the air terminals, and increased technical resources for detecting dangerous materials on persons, in luggage, and in cargo in general.

The communique emphasized that without harming the passengers, the surveillance measures are being carried out in a courteous and consistant manner with all persons using airlines, but within the legal restrictions that emphasize security and prevent any type of criminal attack.

According to reports coming from Beirut, two terrorist organizations claimed credit on Friday for the suicide operation carried out last Monday against a "Boeing 727" of Mexicana de Aviacion, killing 166 persons. The communique points out that the Mexican Foreign Secretariat has received reports from various secret services of the Middle East that rule out the existence of these two organizations, the Arab Revolutionary Brigade and the Egyptian Revolutionary Brigade.

The Government Secretariat pointed out that these reports momentarily confused public opinion and it "is important to emphasize that they were false, and diplomatic circles have criticized how criminal it is to make such hasty statements." The secretariat pointed out that the Egyptian and Lebanese Embassies have denied the authenticity of the alleged action by an Arab command. "There are no previous actions, as the report says, that could confirm the actions of such Arab groups," the secretariat pointed out. It also pointed out that there is no basis for believing that the "Boeing 727-200" accident is the result of terrorist actions.

"Although it is has been fully proven that there are no such commando groups, the Mexican Government will redouble its efforts to maintain tranquillity at its airports," the Government Secretariat concluded.

TEN HONDURAN POLITICAL PRISONERS ARRIVE

FL050400 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0235 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Approximately 10 Honduran political prisoners arrived today in Mexico City after being isolated for 2 days at the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa. The prisoners were liberated by an amnesty decreeed in March by the Honduran Congress, and they are Jose Otilio Juarez, Luis Alonso Perez, Cecilia Martinez, Gregorio Pinto, Benedicto Perez, Ana Pargarita Martinez, Jorge Alberto Solre, Ricardo de Jesus Ramirez Adolfo Medrano Castro, and Jose Gonzalo Flores.

For his part, Honduran Ambassador to Mexico Ricardo Pineda Milla said today that the political prisoners' stay in Mexico will not interfere in any way with the good relations that exist between the two countries, and the former prisoners do not need safe-conduct to depart Honduras. [sentence as received]

CUBA'S AGUIRRE DISCUSSES DISARMAMENT, ANGOLA

FL050234 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0140 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Severo Aguirre del Cristo, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] of Cuba, has said that currently humanity's main goal is to achieve long-lasting peace since the arms race is increasing daily.

Upon arriving in Mexico City to participate in the 75th IPU meeting which will begin Monday, the Caribbean legislator said that instead of appropriating enormous economic resources for weapons, developed countries should contribute to the economic recovery of the so-called Third World countries. Aguirre del Cristo added that currently it has been demonstrated that military confrontation does not resolve problems, but instead brings the world closer to nuclear holocaust, the importance of the Soviet proposal to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2000. [sentence as received]

When asked about Cuban withdrawal from Angola, Aguirre del Cristo stressed that as soon as South African threats are removed and the necessary conditions are created to end apartheid, Cuba will immediately withdraw.

VENEZUELAN OFFICIAL CONDEMNS U.S. AID TO CONTRAS

FL051542 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0230 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Venezuela will condemn U.S. President Ronald Reagan's support to Nicaragua counterrevolutionaries during the 75th IPU meeting to be held in Mexico City on 7-12 April.

Venezuela's Foreign Relations Commission Chairman Ruben Carpio Castillo, who is visiting Mexico City, has said U.S. President's stand is irresponsible inasmuch as it threatens a legitimately elected government.

The Venezuelan legislator reported that his government sent a resolution draft and a memorandum to the participants of the IPU meeting to obtain unanimous support for Contadora Group peace efforts.

The Mexican evening daily ULTIMAS NOTICIAS today indicated that 800 parliamentarians from 100 countries will meet next Monday to demand that the United States abstain from financing, promoting, and covering activities aimed at overthrowing the legitimate government of Nicaragua, stop military maneuvers in Central America, and fulfill its duties as a UN member state. It added that the demands to the Reagan government will be made official by the interparliamentarian union if a resolution draft submitted by the Nicaraguan delegation is approved. The document expresses the concerns of the Sandinist regime over Ronald Reagan's attitude, which threatens Nicaragua's sovereignty and also over U.S. Congress' approval of $100 million-aid for the counterrevolutionaries.

CUBAN AMBASSADOR ON U.S. ACTS AGAINST LIBYA

FL042032 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1920 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Cuban Ambassador to Mexico Jose Fernandez de Cossio has said the Cuban Government is concerned with the violation of norms and international law that the United States is committing against Libya by acts of force. During a tour of Sonora, the diplomat said the U.S. embargo against Cuba that began in 1960 is unjust and this creates prejudice among the free peoples. Fernandez de Cossio also said that in Cuba there is no hunger or unemployment, and sugar is not the only crop nor the principle source for the economy of that Caribbean country. Cuba also produces citruses, coffee, rice, and tobacco, which are gradually increasing, he added. The State of Sonora is the first producer of wheat and one of the main mining entities in the country with the production of copper, gold, and zinc. In addition, Sonora is an attractive tourist state with its 800 km of coastal beaches.

EL DIA ON U.S. SENATE CONTRA AID VOTE

PA041600 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 29 Mar 86 p 5

[Editorial: "Subordination of Powers and of Sovereignties, Common Practice of the U.S. Government"]

[Text] Subject to pressure from the executive power, the U.S. Senate has approved the aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. Two attempts for an amendment by the liberal wing of the Democratic Party failed; following that, a hard battle in the House of Representatives is expected so that it may give its definite approval to the program. The representatives will debate this issue beginning on 15 April.

In fact, the U.S. Senate has always approved this type of aid by the White House for the mercenaries, even though in this case the reluctance of the legislative body on this issue was greater than on previous occasions. This was demonstrated by the close vote, 53 in favor and 47 against. With the approval of this aid, it is evident that, of the two bodies that comprise the Congress, the Senate is the branch most subordinate to the executive. It is the most docile and obedient body of those serving the plutocratic, hegemonic, imperialistic and cliquish interests of the ruling circles, which represent the government's policies.

Even without definite approval, the U.S. Senate, by carrying out this type of shameful action against the most elemental norms of international coexistence, is actually affecting the sovereignties of other countries and, specifically, not only the Nicaraguan people who are willing to serve Washington as puppets.

The farce of an invasion by Sandinist troops in Honduran territory was staged within the framework of the Reagan administration's pressures on Congress, especially on the Senate to obtain a favorable vote for the initiative. The goverment in Tegucigalpa made a weak attempt to abide by the truth, but after a day of intense pressure from the State Department and the Pentagon, which sent the Southern Command chief to Honduras, it succumbed and became a coparticipant in the U.S. lie. With that, the recently installed government of President Azcona Hoyo endorsed the mortgage of his independence and his internal and international credibility, and showed his determination to continue serving as a tool to carry out U.S. hegemonic policies in the region, particularly against Nicaragua.

However, one cannot forget that its geographic position gives the U.S. military enclave in that country an influence on the entire region, and extends its radius of action even beyond this region to others.

The steps taken by the White House so that Honduras would confirm its false version with regard to the invasion by Nicaraguan troops, make us recall the episode of the military attack on Grenada, when the letter sent by Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles asking for U.S. military aid to intervene against the Caribbean island, came after the airborne forces had begun their attack.

In the present case, first came the emergency aid sent by the U.S. President, next came Tegucigalpa's confirmation of the version of the invasion, and finally, Azcona Hoyo's letter asking for financial assistance for military pruposes was released. By that time, U.S. planes were already transporting Honduran reinforcement troops to the border with Nicaragua, and President Azcona Hoyo was heading to his hometown for a rest.

But with these and other actions put into the scene, the White House was able to make its project succeed in the U.S. Senate. By the wayside lay the concepts of foreign sovereignties and the division of U.S. internal branches of government. With the next formal step, at the House of Representatives, new scenes and forms of pressure will be prepared to make the project succeed. Whether this device succeeds or not President Ronald Reagan's intentions to get rid of the legitimate government of Nicaragua and to replace it with one representing his interests is clearly expressed.

For all the preceding, the role played by the Contadora Group as a political instrument in settling the conflict through dialogue and negotiation must be reviewed. It will be up to the Contadora Group and the Support Group, in the continuation of the negotiations that have been going on for 3 years, to carry most of the weight in the building of a solid political retaining wall that will prevent an armed conflict in Central America.

Contadora and the Support Group, which have the support of the most important majorities in Latin America, must impose the only criteria that will bring peace in the area: negotiation.

UN ENVOY: NICARAGUA NOT THREAT TO STABILITY

FL050330 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2342 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpt] New York City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mario Moya Palencia, Mexican ambassador to the United Nations, said today at a conference held at Yale University that Mexico does not consider Nicaragua a threat to political stability.

The Mexican ambassador spoke on relations between Latin America and the United States, and he stressed that Mexico participates in the negotiating process of the Contadora Group, which has world support, to promote peaceful solutions to the Central American conflict.

Moya Palencia said Mexico is concerned that Central America is suffering the greatest militarization of its history despite the efforts of Central American countries and the Contadora Group. Peace cannot be achieved by preparing for war, said the ambassador. He also praised the U.S. public that rejects direct military intervention in Central America.

Moya Palencia also stressed the adverse consequences that would result from isolating Nicaragua from the Latin American system as occurred with Cuba 20 years ago.

During the Yale conference, the diplomat suggested the U.S. Congress give peace a chance in Central America, and he rejected the false idea that the region is an enemy of the United States.

One should respect the peoples' right to self-determination and not impose specific political models, he said. No one can impose democracy on others because this would not be democratic, said Moya Palencia.

GDR AMBASSADOR ON STRENGTHENING RELATIONS

FL051456 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0020 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Villahermosa, Mexico, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Today, GDR Ambassador Joachim Naumann said the GDR will increase relations with Mexico to help in its industrialization process.

After meeting with Governor Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero to establish a scientific, technological, and economic cooperation agreement, the diplomat noted that his country is trying to strengthen friendship ties with Mexico.

PEMEX DIRECTOR: OIL EXPORTS STILL PROFITABLE

PA041645 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta has assured that our country is one of the producers with the lowest crude extraction costs and that consequently, crude exports are still profitable for Mexico.

He added that our country's petroleum fields are located in strategic sites, which results in significant savings and low production costs. Beteta said that Mexico will price its export crude in accordance with the prevailing situation in the international market and the financial state of its customers.

COSTA RICA

SOVIET TRADE UNION LEADERS VISIT LOCAL UNIONS

PA041936 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Mar 86 p 3

[Excerpt] Two Soviet trade union leaders with important positions in the public sector visited Costa Rica for 5 days at the invitation of the National Association of Public Employees (ANEP) to exchange experiences and information on trade unions.

The two Soviet Union leaders are Boris Makarov, member of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union and president of the Trade Union of Public Employees of Moscow; and Vladimir Torjov, an official of the International Department of the Central Council of Trade Unions. Both arrived on Saturday and will return to their country today.

The Soviets took advantage of the visit not only to meet with ANEP members, but also with leaders of all of the Costa Rican labor unions. They discussed the activities of trade unions in the Soviet Union and received information on the work of unions in the capitalist system.

DEPUTY SAYS TUNA FISHING AGREEMENT IMPORTANT

PA052347 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Deputy Edgar Guardiola has said that the ratification of the agreement on tuna fishing in the eastern Pacific is very important. He said that it is the first positive step for Costa Rica, because the United States recognizes the 200 maritime miles for which our country demands respect, because it considers that area to be part of our maritime patrimony.

Guardiola added that the U.S. Government is currently paying all fines levied on vessels of other nations fishing under its flag. He said that besides acknowledging our sovereignty over the 200 maritime miles, the agreement creates a greater inflow of foreign currency to our country and many employment opportunities due to the arrival of international fishing fleets to our ports.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS -- On 8 April, newly appointed ambassadors will present their credentials to President Luis Alberto Monge. They are David Manuel Pere Ramos from Panama, Claudia Chamorro from Nicaragua, and Rodolfo Alberto Henriquez from El Salvador. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Apr 86 PA]

EL SALVADOR

FPL ISSUES 16TH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNIQUE

PA031252 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, FPL, on 1 April; place not given]

[Text] The expansion of the revolution demands from us the maximum fighting sacrifices to bring the people's inevitable victory closer.

We wish to address a message and greetings to all the members of our organizations, to all our brothers with whom we comprise the FMLN, to the comrades of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, and to each and all of our heroic guerrilla warriors and militiamen, who are making possible the total attrition of the puppet Army throughout the country. Despite its enormous resources, this repressive army has been unable to stop the daily advance of the revolutionary forces.

On the 16th anniversary of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, we want to send a special message to all labor organizations, trade unions, and cooperatives, a fraternal embrace to all working classes, workers, peasants, and patriotic and democratic forces of El Salvador.

We also send a militant and anti-imperialist greeting of the FMLN to the workers and revolutionary movement of Latin America and the world.

Every 1 April, for the past 16 years, has been invariably dedicated to a triumphant social, political, and military process of the people's forces; to the irreversible advance of the revolution; to the people's victory over the forces of the oligarchy, the puppet dictatorship, and U.S. imperialism.

The warmongering U.S. Government is deploying a vast counterinsurgency program with the ill-fated purpose of stopping the advance of the democratic and revolutionary forces. As part of this politico-military strategy, the Reagan administration has turned the old dictatorial model into a type of counterinsurgent state, in which the functioning and policy of the state apparatus is at the service of the so-called counterinsurgency war.

The government of Napoleon Duarte is the result of the failure of the imperialist doctrine. To finance the whole war policy, the Reagan administration is investing approximately $2 million a day. Despite this, all the millions of imperialism will never buy nor subdue the patriotic feeling, the love for independence and freedom which is characteristic of our people.

To stop our people's patriotic and revolutionary war, the Yankee imperialists through the Army and the puppet government are implementing the most recent methods and tactics of the counterinsurgency dirty war; the use of small units, encirclement and annihilation operations, intense patrolling, incursions, ambushes, airborne operations, and air warfare. To make this possible, the Yankees have provided the most advanced means in this type of war.

In the meantime, the regime is unable to meet the population's minimum needs. In view of the unpopularity of the Christian Democratic puppet government and of the people's growing hatred toward the puppet Army, the U.S. war command has ordered the implementation of psychological warfare, consisting of terror and intimidation, deceit and misinformation, just like the shameful distribution of crumbs which the Yankees call military civic action and which are a mockery in view of the working classes' great needs.

But for the disgrace of this unpopular regime, the people's heart and spirit are with the revolution. For this reason, all the military and psychological machinery of the imperialists and their lackeys are crashing against the indestructible force of the social revolution and are falling apart before the indomitable military and political advance of the popular, progressive, and patriotic masses.

At this point, when the enemy's military forces are bogged down, we see that the country's economy is in a catastrophic state and in a profound economic crisis affecting the entire nation, especially large sectors of the population.

The U.S. Government is testing a war economy in our country that has definitely been a failure.

The decisive opposition of large sectors of the population, of the most representative sectors of labor organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, peasants, blue-collar workers, merchants, and businessmen, is an action which is definitely plunging the Duarte pro-Yankee regime into its worse crisis. There sectors are associated with the Salvadoran workers in a national unity.

This turning point in the people's struggle is shaking apart the rotten regime the U.S. Government is supporting. Nothing has been able to prevent the regime from weakening, from becoming unpopular and isloated. The large number of Salvadorans who wish for peace, justice, and liberation is increasing every day.

This era of heroism, this period of democratic, civic, and revolutionary actions of the working classes and the people is possible now because the people of Farabundo and Aquino have gone through a long path of violent political struggles since 1932. It is the beautiful result of 16 years of the people's armed struggle, stongly linked with the daily political and labor struggles of the greater performer of the revolution: the people.

As a result, the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, under the banner representing the people and oppressed people, has committed its existence to perform and honorable, active, and creative role, hand in hand with the FMLN, a fraternal organization, which is our politico-military vanguard, and dear revolutionary organizations from which we learn the daily chores of the struggle, the Communist Party of El Salvador, the People's Revolutionary Army, the National Resistance and the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, firm and heroic revolutionary contingents, which make us feel proud and which deserve our respect and love.

On this 16 April, when on the horizon we see the signs of a sure victory, our party, the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, reaffirm our decision to build a single revolutionary party. The revolutionary unity is the first condition of the victory of the people's forces, of the patriotic and democratic cause.

At 16 years from the start on the part of the politico-military struggle and from the beginning of the people's revolutionary war, from the most simple actions to the battles carried out and the general war we are conducting today, we have to live and struggle with the memory of the men who traced the path of victory with their example: Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza, Jose Dimas Salas, Ernesto Morales, Vladimir Umana, Maurcio Galindez, Sergio Orellana, Clara Elizabeth Ramirez, Alejandro Solano, Andres Torres, Commander Ana Maria Melida Amaya Montes, Alejandro Ramirez, Isaac Aguilar Flor, Apolinario Serrano, Juan Mendez, Justo Mejia, Jose Roberto Cirian, Eugenia, Cora, Ursula, Gerson, Julio, Lima, and Julia. The blood of these fighters, together with the generous blood of revolutionary leaders such as Commander Rafael Arce Zablah, Rafael Aguinada Carranza, Milagros Ramirez, Carlos Arias, Luis Adalberto Diaz, Ernesto Feben, and many more heroes of the FMLN and of the people, will always be remembered, and the people's victory will be the victory of those who fell.

Today, when the outlook of the revolution is broadening with the people's growing support, the cadres, members, and fighters of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, as part of the FMLN, assume the obligation to double our efforts and intensify the struggle in all fields, to increase our contribution to defeat the ememy's military plan, to break up its infantry operations and the airborne tactics. Let us all participate in the task to turn the vast people's support into a broader political and fighting participation movement of the masses. Let us increase the regime's international isolation. Let us strengthen our positions and our revolutionary spirit. Let us increase our politicization and ideological stand and to contribute to strengthening FMLN revolutionary unity. Let us intensify the people's struggle and lead the revolution toward victory.

With the consolidation and development of the FMLN, victory is certain.

Revolution or death, the armed people will win.

United to fight, until the final victory.

Revolution or death, we will win.

Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces Political Commission, a member of the FMLN

1 April 1986

U.S. MILITARY ADVISER 'COULD BE' DEAD, WOUNDED

PA061831 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Radio Venceremos is reporting to our people that a U.S. adviser could be [podria ser] dead or wounded. We repeat, the U.S. adviser who was heading the military units that were in the Villa El Rosario area could be dead or wounded.

These are preliminary reports that Radio Venceremos is receiving at this time. It is common for the people of that area to see Yankee officers and soldiers in Gotera in enemy operations.

We urge the national and international press to visit Morazan's Military Detachment No 4 so that they can see Colonel Vargas [words indistinct] and (?run errands) for U.S. officers.

Early today, the U.S. officer in command at the Gotera garrison woke up Colonel Vargas, who had a hangover. Guerrilla units have already hit Colonel Vargas' troops.

We ask our people to listen to our upcoming programs because we will give more details about these important actions carried out in Morazan Department.

Further Details

PA061725 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1500 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] We now repeat the reports about the great guerrilla victory in Morazan Department. There was an attack on enemy units in the Villa El Rosario area and an attack on a position that is only 4 km from Gotera. In the past few weeks, troops of Gotera's Military Detachment No 4 had been carrying out incursions north of Torola River with soldiers of various battalions headed by U.S. advisers.

On 4 April our intelligence network was informed that there were two sections of the Cacahuatique Battalion, headed by a U.S. adviser, hiding in the Villa El Rosario area. A battalion of our Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, combined with weapons support units, using 90-mm cannons and rocket launchers, was ordered to track down, surround, and annihilate the enemy troops in that area. At 2100, on 4 April, the enemy positions were discovered. Intense fighting began and lasted more than 5 hours. The enemy sent helicopters to try to support his units; they flew over the area throughout the night, but without any possibility of helping the troops under attack.

By 0200 yesterday, our battalion had dislodged the enemy which fled in disarray toward the south, still being pursued by our forces.

There were more than 25 enemy casualties in these clashes, while our forces recovered 10 rifles and thousands of cartridges. As they retreated, the enemy troops fell on mine fields we had set up just in case they tried to escape our siege, so that more casualties could be inflicted. The dead included a sergeant who commanded a section; the fate of the U.S. adviser who headed these troops is unknown.

A good number of the enemy troops were lost yesterday. It was also reported that there was another guerrilla attack carried out by a battalion of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade. This battalion attacked a position of two enemy sections of the Ronald Reagan Battalion in (Los Mata), in (Quilonga) jurisdiction, Cacahuatique, only 4 km from San Francisco Gotera's garrison.

Troops of Military Detachment No 4 were dislodged from their positions. They sustained more than 20 casualties, which also included the head of a section. According to preliminary reports, we recovered more than five rifles and thousands of cartridges in this action. In total, in both attacks we inflicted more than 45 casualties, and we recovered more than 15 war weapons and thousands of cartridges for the U.S. rifles we seized from the puppet Army.

Our revolutionary greeting to the FMLN battalions that participated in these successful guerrilla operations.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO CONFIRMS PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT TO BE HELD

PA041833 Paris AFP in Spanish 1824 GMT 3 Apr 86

[By Jean-Pierre Bousquet]

[Text] Guatemala, 3 Apr (AFP) -- "The time has come for Central America to take charge of Central America's future," President Vinicio Cerezo told AFP, thus confirming the realization of a summit meeting among the region's five heads of state at the end of May in Esquipulas (Guatemala).

"During the past 6 years, Central America has experienced a situation that contradicts our interests as neighboring countries," the president said during this exclusive interview, adding that Central America "should not allow itself to be dragged into the East-West confrontation, which is none of its business."

To achieve this objective, Vinicio Cerezo plans to propose the creation of a Central American parliament to his regional colleagues during the Esquipulas meeting. This idea, which was suggested by Cerezo on 14 January when he took office, was well received in the region and throughout Latin America.

The presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua have not sat down together at a table for more than 10 years, and when he made this proposal the idea still came as a challenge. However, the Guatemalan president, who intends to recover his country's position as the leader of Central America, "which has historically been its role" and "whose absence created a void that has had an effect on the regional crisis," risked all the prestige he acquired during the elections he won by an ample margin last December and used his gift of persuasion to induce his counterparts into supporting his idea.

The selection of Esquipulas, a town of less than 3,000 inhabitants in the southeastern part of the country near the border with Honduras, has symbolic value.

It is one of the large centers of popular faith where Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans have traditionally gathered to worship the black Christ.

The meeting will serve to establish the formation and duties of the Central American parliament, for which Cerezo proposes -- as a first phase -- the designation for 1 year of 10 deputies by each national parliament. These 10 deputies will be in charge of preparing the parliament's laws and "rules of the game."

The Guatemalan president has ruled out the idea of creating a supraregional body and, on the contrary, seeks the establishment of a place where we can meet and make proposals, a place that will allow the reactivation of regional integration which is virtually frozen, and where we can work with the Contadora Group and the other Latin American countries in the search for lasting peace.

"It is essential" -- Vinicio Cerezo feels -- "that Central Americans, beyond their ideological differences and their own options, again learn how to talk among themselves. The parliament should be a great center for concerted effort."

"Concerted effort" is the Guatemalan president's key word; he is trying to turn it into his country's rule of the game after 15 years of military regimes, and he is opposed to any form of confrontation. Cautious in regard to U.S. policies, Cerezo refused to directly answer a question asking his opinion of the aid to the anti-Sandinist armed movements.

However, he pointed out that the option of concerted effort over confrontation demonstrates "the difference in conceptions" that exist between himself and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in regard to the Latin American situation and possible solutions.

"We support coexistence and respect for each country's political options," he said, "but we share some sectors' concern that these options should be of a democratic nature."

Despite the border incidents last week between Nicaragua and Honduras, the realization of the Esquipulas meeting scheduled to take place between 20 and 25 May has not been questioned, Cerezo said. He added that the meeting will be preceded by two preparatory conferences at the vice presidential level between Costa Rica and Honduras.

NUNEZ DISCUSSES CONTRA AID, HONDURAN 'INVASION'

PA060040 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 4 Apr 86 p 2

[By Jorge A. Mazariegos]

[Text] Carlos Nunez, commander of the Nicaraguan revolution, has said that his country is prepared both politically and militarily for a U.S. military intervention.

Commander Nunez was interviewed by EL GRAFICO yesterday in one of the rooms of the Camino Real Hotel, where the Nicaraguan delegation is staying. This delegation is participating in the special meeting of the Latin American Parliament, whose debates have begun.

Nunez is currently the president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly and a member of the FSLN's National Directorate.

Wearing a dark blue suit, the ex-guerrilla leader answered the first question on whether Nicaragua is ready to repel any U.S. intervention in its territory.

"Nicaragua does not want a confrontation with the United States. We feel all necessary efforts should be made. Latin America must play an essential role to prevent such a situation that would affect not only Nicaragua, but Central America as well."

"We think the U.S. Congress should not get involved in a conflict advocated by the Reagan administration. We have seen, however, that the Congress has gradually become more and more involved in Reagan's adventure. Of necessity, this leads us to prepare ourselves politically and militarily to confront a possible military intervention.

"We think that, to the extent that we defeat the contras, the United States will feel tempted to try a military intervention in Nicaragua."

"The notion has been spread through Central America that Nicaragua has armed and organized itself to wage war on its neighbors. We have prepared, developed, and organized ourselves not to attack the countries of the region, but to resist, repel, and defeat a U.S. intervention."

EL GRAFICO: During Holy Week Honduras and the United States accused your country of invading Honduran territory. What really happened?

Commander Nunez: "Really, it was the U.S. Government that accused the Nicaraguan Government of violating Honduran territory. They did it to have leverage and to be able to pressure the U.S. Senate into-approving $100 million to aid the contras and defeat the Democrats in the Congress.

"Indeed, clashes occurred in Nicaraguan territory during Holy Week. The purpose of these clashes was to annihilate and repel the counterrevolutionary forces' penetration.

"The Sandinist forces forced the Somozist troops to retreat to Honduran territory, just as happened over a long time at El Pote at the border. This has been taken up by the Reagan administration as propaganda to pressure the Senate by reporting an alleged invasion by the Sandinist army against Honduras. This situation has elicited indignation in the Honduran Government, Congress, and people because they have seen that the United States has assumed responsibilities that do not correspond to them."

EL GRAFICO: Why have you ruled out a dialogue with the opposition forces?

Commander Nunez: "We have completely ruled out a dialogue with the counterrevolutionaries because they are an army of mercenaries. They would not be a true force were they not trained, armed, and financed by the U.S. Government. In addition, 80 percent of it is formed by former members of Somoza's army.

"In addition, we will not yield to the U.S. pressure. This country tries to generate a dialogue in an effort to give the revolution a reformist nature."

EL GRAFICO: What perspectives do you see in the Contadora Group's efforts?

Commander Nunez: "The Contadora Group has made excellent efforts.

"Sometimes, when true dilemmas have confronted the group, initiatives have occurred, such as that of the Support Group and the recent Caraballeda statements.

"Without a defeatist spirit, however, I feel the Contadora Group's efforts, proposals, and the peace document can only become a very important reality for the region if the U.S. Government gives true indications of specific actions to support this process.

"So far, the, U.S. support for Contadora has been propaganda only, but no specific action."

ECONOMY MINISTER DEPARTS FOR 8-DAY TAIWAN VISIT

PA052252 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Economy Minister Lizardo Sosa left for Taiwan last night to contact important businessmen and merchants of that country to invite them to make investments in Guatemala. According to official sources, he will return in 8 days.

DEFENSE MINISTER SWORN IN AS CONDECA PRESIDENT

PA052246 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] General Jaime Hernandez Mendez, national defense minister, was sworn in as president of the Central American Defense Council, Condeca, yesterday in a protocol event held at the organization's Sessions Room in the presence of delegations of countries of the area and guests of nations friendly to Guatemala. Hernandez Mendez received the command baton as the new president of the council.

Colonel Oscar Ruiz Serrano, head of the Salvadoran delegation, explained how the organization works. He noted that Condeca was created as a result of the organic law of the Central American Organization.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER DISCUSSES PGT PUBLICATION

PA051505 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Government Minister Juan Jose Rodil Peralta was asked today for his opinion on the Guatemala Labor Party [PGT] publication. He took what could be very well described as a continuing position, because he reminded us of the attitude adopted by one of his predesessors, Gustavo Adolfo Lopez Sandoval. Even though the publication was included in one of the most important morning newspapers, Rodil Peralta said: I know nothing about this.

[Begin Rodil recording] The PGT is a communist party; it is obvious and logical that the extreme left is interested in distorting the essence of our democratic government strongly opposes traditionalist and oligarchic concepts; it likewise strongly opposes Marxism-Leninism. Therefore, in my opinion, it is not surprising that this type of statement is being issued. [3-second break transmission] particularly by anyone. The government is in charge of the country's public affairs and, after so many decades of de facto governments or -- which is even worse -- constitutional pantomimes, Guatemalans who love democracy have tried to contribute at different times to the installation of a democratic regime.

However, a democratic regime cannot be installed overnight, it is the product of many years of hard work.

Consequently, when the 1983 coup d'etat took place and all the people rejoiced because we had rid ourselves of a corrupt and extremely violent government, many Guatemalans prepared themselves to collaborate in a civic way. I was appointed Guatemalan ambassador to Venezuela during the second half of 1985 and, in my opinion, this helped to achieve the political opening in Guatemala, because Venezuela has been one of the countries that clearly and sincerely offered to support the democratic opening process for a long time.

Therefore, this should not surprise us. I think that one must analyze political actions according to the results obtained. Nevertheless, it is interesting to observe that a paid ad was published by the PGT, which is a communist party, and they were actually allowed to publish this ad. This is truly a positive and new sign which proves that we have freedom of expression. [end recording]

HONDURAS

AZCONA DISCUSSES RECENT CRISIS WITH NICARAGUA

PA050313 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0145 GMT 5 Apr 86

[President Jose Azcona Hoyo address to the nation on 4 April -- recorded]

[Text] Honduran people: In my role as constitutional president of the Republic and given the incidents provoked by the penetration of military members of the EPS from the Republic of Nicaragua into several sectors of our eastern border during March, I report the following to the Honduran people and the international community:

1. On 11 and 12 March the EPS raided Honduran territory, simultaneously attacking five border areas: (Cerro Guazapo), Casa Vieja, El Cerron, Piedras Blancas, La Vigia, and Las Tejeras.

2. On Thursday, 13 March, a Honduran helicopter was hit by EPS machine-gun fire while engaged in vigilance activities within our territory, over zones which are difficult to reach by land.

3. On 14 March several EPS patrols again penetrated Honduran territory through the sectors of (Somotin), Yamala, (Bolinquen), (Cano Yulcuasquin), La Esperanza, (Cerro Papelo), (Cerro de la Garrapata), Cerro Toro, and again La Esperanza, and attacked a Honduran military patrol. The presence of Sandinist troops, camped in the sector of Yamalito, was also confirmed. The same day, EPS members attacked a Honduran military patrol in the sector of (Maquengali).

4. On 15 March EPS members harassed the sector of (Bocas de Guano) with mortar fire, and a Honduran military patrol was attacked at the sectors of (Entrepiedras), (Bola), and (Espanol).

5. On 16 March Sandinist troops maintained positions between El Oro and El Rosario.

6. On 17 March five Sandinist unite were seen at (Cano Yulcuasquin).

7. On 24 March a Sandinist battalion took up position at Hill 444 and (La Polvosa). On that same date the EPS launched several BM-21 rockets, which hit our territory, close to Honduran villages.

8. On 25 March members of the EPS again fired artillery shots at Honduran territory, hitting Cerro Guambuco. That same day the Sandinist troops fired agaisnt the Honduran Miskito communities of (Kuanwasla) and Torres, using 81 mm mortars, 122 mm cannons, and ZIS-2 57 mm antitank guns.

9. On 30 March the EPS launched several BM-21 rockets, hitting the sector of Trojes.

In view of these systematic violations and aggressions against our national sovereignty, the Honduran Armed Forces' High Command ordered the military units in charge of these sectors to repel the attack and evict the invading troops. Simultaneously, a task force was organized to reinforce the military units that fulfilled this mission.

In due time, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat reported and protested to the Nicaraguan Government these EPS actions. In addition, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat reported all this to the United Nations and OAS secretary generals. The Nicaraguan Government denied that the Honduran territory had been violated. It admitted, however, that clashes with counterrevolutionary forces probably took place in Nicaraguan territory and that these actions probably took the Nicaraguan forces beyond the common border. The Honduran Government's stance is not to accept any violations of our territory under any circumstances.

The armed clashes resulted in five EPS members being killed. Others were withdrawn by the invading forces or were left abandoned in the jungle. Seven EPS soldiers have been taken prisoner so far. Their names are" Mario Salomon Hernandez Mayorga and Carlos Alberto Sandino Pons of the Francisco Estrada Battalion and Rolando Flores Tinoco, Panfilo Gutierrez Martinez, Bayardo Ramiro Ulloa, Jose Mejia Bonnilla, and Jose Abraham Sosa Aleman of the German Pomares Battalion. It is precisely these two battalions that penetrated Honduran territory with a contingent numbering about 1,500 men.

Honduras has reiterated its stance regarding the Central America crisis at the United Nations, the OAS, the Contadora Group, and to the international community. This stance has been calmly maintained by our government, as the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry itself has admitted. As the first and foremost objective of its foreign policy, my government is determined to preserve peace, leave Honduras out of any regional armed conflict, and advocate dialogue and negotiation as fundamental principle of international law among civilized nations.

I firmly believe that peace, security, and democracy are three essential and inseparable factors for the stability and normalization of domestic life in each Central American nation and for a harmonious relationship among states. Because of this, the Honduran Government advocates and supports a disarmament and a reduction of men under arms policy and a national reconciliation policy in those countries that still have not attained it. Specifically in the case of Nicaragua, my government has seen with great favor the proposal presented by the Nicaraguan democratic parties to the Nicaraguan government. These parties are: the Independent Liberal Party, the Democratic Conservative Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Nicaraguan Conservative Party. This is their proposal. Quote:

1. Immediate agreement to suspend hostilities by government and unconventional forces for a definitive peace accord and the country's demilitarization.

2. Promulgation of an effective general amnesty law for political crimes and common crimes related to them for an effective reconciliation of the Nicaraguan people.

3. Repeal of the state of emergency and full reinstatement an enforcement of rights and guarantees of Nicaraguans.

4. Signing of an accord by the nation's political parties for the preparation and completion of a new electoral process leading to general elections in which all political parties or groups can participate, provided they are politically and legally recognized.

5. Effective fulfillment of national and international pledges signed for Nicaragua's democratization without harm to its sovereignty and self-determination.

6. Invitation to continental organizations, ad hoc groups and [words indistinct] and political international organizations for them to help implement the points demanded. Unquote.

The Honduran Government maintains that national conciliation in Nicaragua resulting from the respect of citizens' rights is the key to pacification in Central American and the restoration of trust among our governments.

Honduras has been supporting the negotiations process under the good offices of the Contadora Group and will continue to do so in search of a general agreemement, with clear, realistic, and verifiable clauses, that solves in a global aspect, the diverse problems that comprise the crisis of the Central American area.

Until the negotiations sponsored by the Contadora Group lead to a global agreement, the Honduran Government has the right to try to strengthen its own security measures. It also holds the right to invoke its collective and bilateral security agreements. To apply the already existing mechanisms and in view of the seriousness of the above - mentioned incidents, Honduras asked the U.S. Government for military assistance that consisted of help in the air transportation of Honduran troops to the areas of conflict, and any other aid considered necessary.

As president of the country, I have made legitimate use of my right to request this special security agreement with the U.S. Government to safeguard our people's security and Honduras' territorial integrity.

I am determined to call upon their [U.S.] military aid as many times as it may be necessary to defend our homeland.

The situation of the forces opposed to the Nicaraguan Government is similar to the Nicaraguan opposition that struggled against the Somozist dictatorship. Both oppositions, the one against the Somozists and the one against the Sandinists, were not decided by the will of the other countries of the region, instead, they emerged as a reaction to an internal situation in Nicaragua, created by the Nicaraguans themselves.

It has been Honduras' pacifist tradition to comply faithfully with the international legal principle of respect for the sovereignty of countries. If in the past we said that our territory would never become a springboard to invade neighboring countries, today we reiterate and institutionalize this doctrine as part of the policy of the government I preside over.

The Contadora Group mission is to remove the Central American crisis from the East-West confrontation, through a democratic solution instead of a solution that leaves one sector of Central America free and another under a repressive and totalitarian regime.

So long as there is a totalitarian regime in Central America with expansionist ambitions, supported by an enormous military apparatus, the social, economic, and political stability of all the countries of the region, especially the neighboring countries that have common borders with that country, which is the source of the problem, will be under constant threat.

As president of Honduras and in exercise of the rights bestowed by the Constitution, I have ordered the actions I consider appropriate to do my duty. The Honduran people can rest assured that these grave incidents have been handled with the utmost responsibility and wisdom. We have prevented a psychological situation that could have led to surprising situations that can only bring unrest to our country.

We have not minimized nor magnified the incidents at our border with Nicaragua. The decisions I had to adopt in my role as constitutional president of the Republic have been adopted without internal or external pressure. I was only guided by my democratic and republican beliefs. For this I have had the full support of our Armed Forces watching over at all times for the nation's integrity and security.

In the decisions we have made in the past and the ones we will make now and in the future, we will always act placing the nation's sacred interests above everything else.

Greetings, fellow citizens.

NICARAGUAN PLI LEADER GODOY MEETS WITH AZCONA

PA051831 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- President Jose Azcona Hoyo met yesterday, for approximately 3 hours, with Virgilio Godoy, president of the Nicaraguan Independent Liberal Party [PLI]. They exchanged views regarding the search for a political solution to the problems between Honduras and Nicaragua and the plan for the creation of a Central American and Caribbean liberal federation.

Godoy said that he did not discuss the issue of the contras with President Azcona. "We were talking at a political level and not discussing military issues," Godoy said, adding: "We talked about the importance that the democratic renewal of the political processes have in Central America." Godoy said that to prevent an armed conflict between Nicaragua and Honduras it is necessary to "search for mechanisms of negotiation, as these norms have been established and accepted, and should be implemented."

The Nicaraguan political leader refused to expand on the problem of the contras: "We never look at something from a unilateral viewpoint, we are concerned about the process of violence endured by the country and we are trying to find a solution to this problem, a truly terrible problem."

When asked whether the PLI is a party that opposes the government and supports the contras, Godoy said, "we support peace in Nicaragua. That is what we are interested in at this time. This means that we are trying to find a solution that will be satisfactory to the majority of the Nicaraguans."

However, Godoy underscored that "solutions aimed at resolving an open and serious problem, such as the one existent in my country, are difficult and represent a greater responsibility for the leaders of all sectors."

Godoy was reminded that the Nicaraguan Government is maintaining its position to negotiate with the unarmed opposition, the civic opposition comprised by the political parties that are seeking a national dialogue, a national agreement based on four main points.

Godoy said that the four points are: a cease-fire that would represent the first step toward a definite peace agreement; a general amnesty that would allow those who chose the path of violence to rejoin the political life; the abolishment of the state of emergency that has restricted the civil and political rights in the country; and general elections that would help settle differences.

In conclusion, the Nicaraguan politician said that President Azcona supports the creation of a liberal federation of Central America and the Caribbean.

PRESIDENT SAYS MILITARY EXERCISES JUSTIFIED

PA060229 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0053 GMT 6 Apr 86

[By German Reyes]

[Excerpts] Comayagua, Honduras [no date as received] -- Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said today that the Central American situation "eminently justifies" the combined military exercises such as "Tosta-86," which are carried out by the Honduran and U.S. Armies.

The Honduran president and John Galvin, commander of the U.S. Army's Southern Command based in Panama, were present today at the closing of the "Tosta-86" exercises, which began on 13 March, with the participation of 4,000 U.S. and Honduran soldiers.

The Honduran president, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, reiterated that his government will always support "the constant improvement of the armed institution, with the understanding that the improvement of the soldier must be total, involving not just the technical and military, but all aspects of his life, in war and in peace."

It is in this context that his government supports military exercises in which troops of a friendly country are also participating, Azcona, said.

Referring to the friendship between Honduras and the United States, the president said that it was tested in March when Nicaraguan troops entered his country.

"I asked the U.S. Government for military assistance to transfer Honduran troops to the area where the incursion occurred. That aid was granted immediately," the Honduran president said.

Azcona said that the conflict with Nicaragua tested not only the U.S. willingness to provide assistance and cooperation, but the prudence of the Honduran Armed Forces, which should not be interpreted as weakness.

General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces and director of the "Tosta-86" exercises, said for his part that Honduras remains committed to peace, but that the threats on its borders force it to increase its military training.

Regalado Hernandez said that if a real war with neighboring countries were to occur in the future, he is certain that "today's success will be tomorrow's guarantee" that will ensure the survival of democracy, freedom, and justice.

The theater of operations for the exercises that ended today was the Departments of Choluteca, El Paraiso, Olancho, Gracias a Dios, Francisco Morazan, La Paz, and Comayagua, in southern, eastern and Central Honduras.

FOREIGN SECRETARY REJECTS U.S. OFFICIALS' REPORTS

PA050037 Paris AFP in Spanish 2325 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Apr (AFP) -- Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez expressed disapproval today of the actions of Reagan administration officials who reported political or military situations in Honduras, as was evidenced in the crisis provoked in the wake of a recent Sandinist incursion in Honduran territory.

Lopez alluded to the continuous statements on this incident by U.S. officials who reported the incident 24 hours before the Honduran Government even, evidencing deep contradictions between Washington and Tegucigalpa.

Meanwhile, Lopez affirmed that "one would have to verify if it is true" that a ranking Honduran official told U.S. reporters that the United States made Honduras fall into "a trap" on the Sandinist incursion last week.

The U.S. State Department requested "clarifications" from Honduras on that statement according to which the United States pressured Tegucigalpa into admitting the magnitude of the Sandinist incursion, a situation which the Reagan administration used to secure support for the "contras."

The foreign secretary noted that the matters of security related to this country "must be handled by the Honduran Government," adding that President Jose Azcona is capable of doing so and controls the Honduran situation well.

Therefore, he said, "the U.S. officials' information regarding the political or military situation in Honduran territory is unnecessary."

Diverse sectors of opinion harshly criticized the Honduran administration for its "lack of information" on the border incidents and charged that "the information learned by the Honduran people comes from Washington."

In that context President Azcona will address the nation on radio and television tonight to inform, he said, "everything regarding the border problem."

Lopez, who left for the Contadora Group and Support Group in Panama today, said that "it is very difficult to give an opinion" on the $100-million aid requested by Reagan for the Nicaraguan contras. He said that "the United States, as any other government, on taking actions of an international nature must consider foremost its national interests and not the interests of other states."

He added that personally he respects "the interpretation of United States that pressure or the military path against the government of Nicaragua can obtain quicker results for peace or eliminate the causes of tension in Central America." However, he stated that he did not want to comment on that point "because it affects another neighboring country."

NICARAGUA

HONDURAN: AMBASSADOR TO RETURN HOME 'URGENTLY'

PA041228 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The Honduran Ambassador will return urgently to his country today. Isidro Tapia Martinez, the Honduran Ambassador in Managua, will travel to Honduras today on what was described as a family visit by Carlos Alberto Herrera Montes, the cultural attache of that diplomatic mission.

The Honduran diplomat's trip takes place at a moment when the government of Jose Azcona Hoyo, president of that brother country, has taken a firm stand in the face of pressure being exerted on his government to worsen the friendly relationship between Honduras and Nicaragua by internal and external sectors, specifically the U.S. Administration.

According to political observers, the Honduran ambassador will take the opportunity to be briefed by President Azcona Hoyo on the real situation in Honduras and the government's policy when the Contadora Group meeting, which will take place this weekend in Panama, is drawing closer.

D'ESCOTO RECEIVES VISITING INDIAN DELEGATION

PA041439 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto met today with an Indian delegation headed by Minister of External Relations (Kamlesh Sharne) [name and title as heard]. The visit of this delegation, which will stay in the country until 8 April, is aimed at strengthening ties with Nicaragua. During their stay the members of this delegation will meet with the industries, external cooperation, and agrarian reform ministers.

D'ESCOTO TO ATTEND CONTADORA MEETING IN PANAMA

PA051453 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman will travel to Panama today to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups as well as of Central America.

Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco arrived yesterday in Panama City to attend this meeting slated for 4 [as heard] and 5 April. It is expected that an objective proposal leading to an understanding of all the parties involved will result from this meeting. Likewise, it is hoped this will lead to the definite signing of the document for peace and cooperation in the region.

GRANMA: DUARTE, SEAGA 'VASSALS' OF REAGAN

PA150404 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Edward Seaga and Jose Napoleon Duarte are the leaders who give Washington the most valuable service in the Central American and Caribbean region. This is the appraisal of both personalities made by the Cuban GRANMA newspaper in a commentary entitled "In the Same Bed." According to the article, one can say with all justice that, internationally, both leaders are the most faithful Reagan vassals, and at the same time they are allies of the aggressive and interventionist U.S. policy. GRANMA says that Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga played an outstanding role in justifying and supporting the Yankee invasion of Grenada, and in the emergence of a counterrevolutionary military force in the Caribbean. In addition, he recently interceded to convince the tyrant Jean-Claude Duvalier to abandon power, but not before assuring the continuity of the Haitian dictatorship with others loyal to imperialism.

GRANMA explained that Duarte has a rich track record of U.S. services. His government has favored having the Pentagon direct and lead the strategy of the counterinsurgency struggle. GRANMA added that it is said that eight North American colonels work with the Salvadoran Armed Forces General Staff, and that there are from six to eight Yankee advisers in each garrison. The article adds that Duarte's latest service-- a truly vile one, to say the least -- was to propose that if Nicaragua agrees to negotiate with the mercenaries that are attacking her, the Salvadoran regime would be willing to talk with the guerrillas. GRANMA emphasized that this vile action was committed just when Washington is trying to secure a $100-million aid package for the counterrevolutionary gangs of Nicaraguan origin headed by former Somozist colonel Enrique Bermudez, who participated in the 1965 Yankee invasion of the Dominican Republic. Continuing, the article states that Duarte is attempting to compare the Somozist criminals with the Salvadoran guerrillas, who have never been opposed to a national dialogue. Moreover, they have promoted such talks. Nevertheless, GRANMA concluded, such stances clearly demonstrate that Jose Napoleon Duarte and Edward Seaga gladly agree to share the same bed with Reagan.

COMMENT ON U.S. TACTICS, ADVISERS IN EL SALVADOR

PA041707 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Station commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Again in the past few weeks, the Salvadoran revolutionary forces are asking the regime of Jose Napoleon Duarte to resume bilateral talks to end the conflict which is rocking the country, and which has already claimed more than 50,000 lives. This constructive attitude cannot be interpreted as a sign of weakness. On the contrary, the Salvadoran guerrillas have exhibited a total capacity to resist in the face of the blind attacks of the genocidal army, and are an alternative for power which is impossible to ignore. If anyone still doubts this fact, all one has to do is analyze the results of the most recent military offensive against areas occupied by the insurgents. The offensive is characterized by horrible growing number of U.S. advisers.

Despite the deployment of infantry, artillery, and Air Force units, the Army was unable to dislodge the guerrillas. On the contrary, it sustained almost 600 casualties in actions carried out in March. In those 31 days, the insurgents increased their actions in San Salvador and its outskirts.

According to initial estimates, the economic sabotage operations resulted in $9 million in losses for the regime. In only the first 3 months of 1986 approximately 1,500 soldiers were killed or wounded in clashes with the guerrillas. This shows that the level of atrrition is higher than that of previous periods, but Napoleon Duarte insists on saying that he is stronger than ever.

Such figures, which the Salvadoran regime cannot deny, show the failure of the counterrevolutionary tactics applied by the United States in El Salvador, which combine alleged quick offensives with the terror and scorched earth policy against civilians whom the Yankee advisers view as the guerrillas' social support.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. CENTRAL AMERICA POLICY

PA041403 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] When a group of well-known U.S. ultrarightists met in Santa Fe and drafted the foreign policy for Latin America which Ronald Reagan's government would implement, a new era had begun for the White House: the return to unchecked big power airs that had been dormant in many powerful U.S. sectors.

Some ideologists called Reagan a messiah of the West whose mission is to reimpose U.S. supremacy. In line with this, a counterrevolutionary action that resorts to state terrorism was planned. The Central America case, and in particular, Nicaragua, appear as a priority issue in the so-called Santa Fe program. In both cases, force and interventionism are viewed as correct roads. Reagan is being loyal to such a position. Washington began with the development of the counterrevolutionary bands for which it is now soliciting no less than $100 million. Then, it went on to transform Honduras into a permanent base for Yankee troops who have brought to that nation -- one of the poorest in the continent -- more sadness and suffering. Let us remember the charges of rapes, the corruption of minors, and the trafficking in children made a few days ago by important Honduran persons. These persons also reported the introduction into the country of the feared AIDS.

As a result of the White House fuss about an alleged Honduran border violation by Sandinist troops, Washington took a new and extremely dangerous step: U.S. aircraft flown by U.S. pilots are transporting Honduran troops to the area where the Nicaraguan troops, in somebody's imagination, entered. There is already talk that U.S. advisers are prepared to support the actions of the former Somozist guards if the U.S. Congress decides to approve the $100 million requested for that group of assassins. Both steps undoubtedly move U.S. troops closer to direct actions against Nicaragua. President Daniel Ortega has clearly warned in Managua that any U.S. military man who violates Nicaraguan territory must be prepared to run the same fate of the bandits he is advising.

The militarist adventure of Vietnam is little by little being repeated in Central America. In the Indochinese nation, the Yankees carried out the same kind of escalation: financial support for the regimes, in power, the presence of advisers in the barracks, gradual incorporation of troops into the battle fronts, and, finally, a direct and open intervention, in an episode that deeply marked the average North American. More than a few North American families lost a loved one as a result of that imperialist campaign. And it will not be just a few families that will be affected by the same situation if the United States speeds up its aggressive steps against Nicaragua, because Reagan and his team can be sure that if they try to satisfy their crezy appetites, the invaders will have no peace and no military parade in Central America.

U.S. 'FALSE STATEMENTS' ON REBEL TRAINING NOTED

PA040422 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 86

["Note" by Marta Marcer]

[Text] The U.S. Government was forced to apologize to Uruguay because of Ronald Reagan's false statements regarding the training of alleged Uruguayan guerrillas in Nicaragua. This lie was part of the propaganda show staged by the heads of the White House to get the U.S. Congress to approve $100 million in aid to the counterrevolutionary bands who are uselessly attempting to overthrow the Sandinist revolution.

Making fools of themselves, at an international level, Washington had to admit that it had no proof to back up the statement on the alleged presence of Uruguayan guerrillas in Nicaragua and less proof on the presence of training camps in Nicaragua. Upon the demand of Brazil and Argentina, the United States also had to express its apologies to them because in his insane speech, Reagan also said that Brazilian and Argentine insurgents were being militarily trained in Nicaraguan territory.

To these confrontations with several Latin American governments regarding the issue of imperialist aggression against Nicaragua, we must add the fact that in the past few hours large popular demonstrations have occurred in the United States against Reagan's Central American policy. In Santa Barbara, Boston, Miami, and Seattle, demonstrations were held against more military support to the Somozist groups. Perhaps the most important of these demonstrations was the one staged by Vietnam veterans who tried to send a list of demands to Ronald Reagan. The veterans asked that the criminal militaristic adventure undertaken in Indochina not be repeated in Central America. This demonstration by U.S. veterans was staged during the days when the Yankee defeat in Vietnam is recalled and when many U.S. homes honor the memory of their dead, fallen in a war of pillage [guerra de rapina]. The absurd glory of this war was to fill the pockets of the industrial-military complex of which Reagan is a favorite son.

SALVADORAN RADIO CITED ON U.S. ADVISER 'CASUALTY'

PA061720 Havana International Service in Spanish 1610 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Radio Venceremos has reported that the Salvadoran guerrillas have inflicted 45 casualties on the regime's Army in the past few hours. These casualties were inflicted during attacks on government positions in Villa El Rosario and on Cacahuatique hill in Morazan Department, in eastern El Salvador.

The station added that the casualties include a U.S. military adviser. Radio Venceremos reported that after the fighting the Salvadoran Army began an intense search operation in northern Morazan in pursuit of the rebel sources.

Meanwhile, SALPRESS reported that Salvadoran guerrillas inflicted 22 casualties on the regime's troops in Chalatenango Department, where the Army is involved in important counterinsurgency operations.

Other reports indicate that the FMLN will implement a truce today, Sunday, to permit the vaccination of hundreds of children in the areas in conflict.

DELEGATE SPEAKS AT LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT

FL050058 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] So long as the United States does not make a serious commitment respecting the self-determination and sovereignty of the peoples, there will be no peace in central America. This was expressed by Cuban delegate Ramon Pez Ferro upon speaking at the third special session of the Latin American Parliament which began yesterday in Guatemala City. Pez Ferro said that the Latin American delegates have a special responsibility at this regional meeting due to the great concern that exists in the continent because of the very serious situation and the role the Latin American Parliament is expected to play in solving the crisis.

Other Delegates Comment

PA051241 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] During the debates of the third special meeting of the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino], which is being held in Guatemala City, most of the delegates have condemned those who are trying to impose a military solution on the present Central American crisis. Wilson Pardo of Peru called for rejection of what he described as a brazen intervention intended to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution, and encouraged the forum to express its opposition to the war promoted by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

On behalf of the Dominican Republic delegation, Ramon Ventura said that his people can clearly see the danger threatening Central America, because the Dominican Republic has already experienced two U.S. armed interventions. Cuban deputy Ramon Pez Ferro said that the Central American crisis was created by Washington, which openly show that the United States has returned to Theodore Roosevelt's big stick policy. The Parlatino meeting, which will end tomorrow, entered its definitive phase of debates on the sole subject of the meeting: defense of peace and democracy in Central America.

LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SITUATION VIEWED

PA041811 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The Baker Plan, the plan for the Caribbean Basin, and other imperialist subterfuges no longer serve Washington and its Western allies in (?solving) the serious economic situations being experienced by Latin America, which is dramatically spreading to the rest of the underdeveloped world. According to recent figures, our continent already owes $375 billion, $15 billion more than last year, and the trend indicates that this growth will not stop. Argentine President Raul Alfonsin has just inaugurated an international meeting in Buenos Aires on an adequate supply of food, in which he discussed the topic of hunger as a direct consequence of the selfish policies of the industrialized West.

Alfonsin recalled a truism: The path to development and the battle against the lack of food is obstructed by the brutal indebtedness of the Third World and the practice of protectionism by imperialist powers which limit the revenues of underdeveloped nations.

He recalled that 500 million human beings are going hungry in the world and that 1 out of every 4 children in our continent is seriously affected by malnutrition. Of course, this has a mathematical explanation that perhaps would be less terrible if it did not have an alarming impact on people's lives in our region. For example, Latin America pays $40 billion to creditor banks every year in interest. This is a figure that must be added to the debt service. However, there are other ways to lay out funds, for example, through the flight of capital. Regarding this, in 1985 our America turned over more than $123 billion to imperialist powers. This figure is equivalent to one-third of the regional debt. As a result of this, the IDB reported, the overall Latin American gross product dropped by 9 percent. Inflation increased by more than 300 percent in the same period, which unavoidably resulted in more misery, poverty, and hunger for our peoples.

RADIO CITES BARRICADA ON PRESSURES ON HONDURAS

PA041659 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The newspaper BARRICADA, published in Managua, today carried a front-page article highlighting the Honduran Government's charge that it is being pressured by sectors interested in fomenting a war with Nicaragua. BARRICADA, an official FSLN organ, referred to the note that the Honduran Government sent to the Nicaraguan Government yesterday, noting that the Tegucigalpa authorities are acting cautiously and calmly and cannot permit foreigners to handle their bilateral relations. Journalist Rodrigo Wong Arevalo, director of information of Tegucigalpa's Radio America, explained that this use of the word foreigners referred to General John Galvin, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, who directed the transfer of Honduran soldiers to the border with Nicaragua 2 weeks ago [as heard] in an effort to provoke a confrontation between the two nations.

NONALIGNED MINISTERS ISSUE REPORT, END MEETING

FL051224 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] With the attendance of 45 delegations from member states and organizations of the Nonalighed Movement, 4 observers and representatives from UNESCO and the UN Council for Namibia, the second meeting of education and culture ministers of nonaligned and developing countries has ended in Havana.

Those attending the conference unanimously approved a final report which includes various subjects discussed since 1 April. Among them are the illiteracy of millions of human beings and their lack of culture, continuation of the arms race, and allocation of necessary resources giving attention to those problems, as well as the establishment of a new international economic order and achievement of fair world cooperation. The approved document underscores the role of education and culture in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, racism, and all forms of aggression and occupation, including Zionism.

The nonaligned countries' delegates' meeting in Havana also agreed that governments' educations policies should be aimed at developing the greatest potential of the individual's intellectual, physical, and spiritual capabilities, encouraging high aesthetic values, and preparing them to face the demands of economic, political, and social development. They also favored the elimination of child labor and juvenile delinquency and called for measures to provide children the best loving care. It adds that the Nonaligned Movement should contemplate establishing the work-study system and pay attention to technical and scientific education.

Finally, the report unanimously approved the Pyongyang and Seoul co-hosting proposal for the 24th Olympic Games, contributing to the solidarity between the people inasmuch as education, sports, and physical education should not be commercialized or professionalized.

RISQUET GIVES ANGOLA'S SANTOS MESSAGE FROM CASTRO

FL032356 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has met in Luanda with Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes who presented Dos Santos with a verbal message from Cuban head of state Fidel Castro. The topics discussed during the fraternal meeting included the extensive cooperation ties between the two countries. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the MPLA-PT [Popular Liberation Movement of Angolo-Party of Labor] and was attended by Cuban Ambassador in Luanda Rodolfo Puente Ferro.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH MONGOLIA SIGNED

FL041924 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The Cuban-Mongolian Inter-Governmental Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation has been created after an agreement was signed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the state Committee for Economic Cooperation and M. Ochirbat, Mongolian State Cooperation Committee minister. The two countries have had exchanges in the areas of health, agriculture, geology, higher education, and hydroeconomy since 1972.

RAUL CASTRO GREETS PIONEER ORGANIZATION

FL041135 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the FAR, has sent a message greeting the organization of Jose Marti Pioneers on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, which is being marked today. Raul's message indicates that for our country's men and women, who fulfill the necessary task of defending the achievements of the revolution, there is no better reward for their efforts than being able to celebrate with our younger ones this organization of Jose Marti Pioneers anniversary.

RAUL CASTRO NOTES CENTRAL ARMY ANNIVERSARY

FL050113 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The 25th anniversary of the Central Army was commemorated this morning with a military ceremony held at one of its outstanding units. In honor of the occasion, Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and FAR minister, gave a message greeting the members of the Armed Forces group in which he expressed his confidence that they will complete their agreements and resolutions made at the third party congress as well as the new missions they are assigned. The ceremony was presided over by Politburo members Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, First Substitute of the FAR Ministry, and Esteban Lazo, first secretary of the party in Matanzas.

RAINFORD NOTES CARICOM'S CASH SHORTAGE

FL051438 Bridgetown CANA in English 1427 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 5, CANA -- The Guyana-based Secretariat of the 13-member Caribbean Community (Caricom) is grappling with a serious cash-flow problem that is hampering its work, Secretary General Roderick Rainford says. With an annual budget of some U.S. 3 million dollars, the Secretariat has accumulated an indebtedness of at least one million U.S. dollars.

Rainford, responding to CANA queries, declined to give financial details, but said the situation had resulted from the failure of Caricom governments to consistently honour their annual subventions. Whenever major contributors to the budget, such as Jamaica (37 percent) and Trinidad and Tobago (25 percent) fail to meet their obligations in time, the financial problems are aggravated. The problem worsened over the past two years and has now led to a situation where the Secretariat has to consider freezing new appointments or filling some vacancies, Rainford said. Some of the top vacancies which could be affected are in the legal, education and health sections of the Secretariat. Of the estimated 180 staffers, 85 are professional and reflect the regional character of the institution.

The prime minister of Dominica, Eugenia Charles, has been in the forefront of calls for decentralisation of the Secretariat's services, recommending that trade and economic integration matters be the focus of the Georgetown operation. But Rainford said he had not been made officially aware of any request from a member government for decentralisation or relocation of the Secretariat as a whole out of Georgetown.

The budgetary problems of the Secretariat was among matters that were to have been discussed at the March 23-26 meeting of the Caricom Council of Ministers, which was put off. The meeting was originally scheduled for January. It has since been twice postponed without any new dates being fixed. Normally, two Caricom Council of Ministers meetings precede the annual heads of government summit. The first was held last year. The next summit is scheduled for Guyana in July this year.

CDB PREDICTS POOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, TRADE

FL051307 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] The Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] is predicting little economic growth this year in the English-speaking Caribbean and it also paints a gloomy picture for intra-regional trade. In its report, which has just been released, the Barbados-based bank predicts however that economic growth should gain momentum in 1987 if the projected increases in the output of industrialized countries should materialize. It says that a few of the 13 member-states of the Caribbean Community are still reluctant to dismantle tariff barriers which were erected to protect their domestic markets.

CDB TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS

FL051400 Bridgetown CANA in English 1348 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 5, CANA -- Outstanding indebtedness totalling U.S. 18 million dollars to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) by some of its borrowing members, will be among matters to be considered when the bank's next board of directors meeting opens here April 10, well informed sources said today.

Guyana owes U.S. 10-million dollars in interest and principal payments of this total, which has accumulated over a period of more than five years. Other payments defaulters which have at least been honouring some of their obligations, include Jamaica, St Lucia, Belize and Antigua and Barbuda.

A top official of the Barbados-based CDB denied suggestions that a proposal had been made to write off the money owed to the institution as bad debts, explaining that this was not the policy of the CDB. He said that consideration was being given to the creation of a special category for debtors, such as Guyana, to be allowed to honour its obligations over a long period. The official, however, added that this was a very sensitive issue since it involved creating a new precedent that may also have to be extended to other borrowing members of the bank.

When the issue was raised a year ago, some of the bank's donor members, including Britain, France and Canada expressed strong reservations and urged that the CDB at all times adhere to established banking practices in dealing with loan repayments. Similar sentiments were also reportedly expressed by the Bahamas.

Next week's meeting of the CDB's board of directors comes just about a month before the institution's 16th annual meeting of its Board of Governors in Caracas, Venezuela.

DOMINICA

GOVERNMENT SETS BY-ELECTIONS TO FILL JOHN'S SEAT

FL051312 Bonarire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] In Dominica, the government has announced that a by-election will be held next month to fill the seat held by former Prime Minister Patrick John. Mr John is currently serving a 12-year jail sentence for plotting the overthrow of the government of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles. The seat held by Mr John was declared vacant on 20 February following the expiration of his leave of absence from a Dominica parliament.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CONTADORA, SUPPORT GROUPS ISSUE COMMUNIQUE

PA080100 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0017 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Panama City, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups have released an official communique at the end of 3 days of negotiations with the Central American nations specifying that 6 June is the deadline for negotiating the regional peace treaty. The "Panama Communique" states the following:

"The foreign ministers of the five Central American countries, the Contadora Group, and the Support Group met in Panama City from 5 through 7 April 1986 evaluate the development of the peace negotiations in Central America and determine the priority actions that must be taken to culminate the process of political negotiation for the solution of the crisis in the area.

"The foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups warned that in recent weeks the military buildup, the policy of force, and the increases in border incidents have worsened the Central American conflict, thus increasing the threats hovering over the already precarious stability of the area.

"Peace, and undeniable condition for the development of these peoples, is encountering new and growing threats in spite of the conciliation efforts promoted by the Contadora Group to reach situations respectful of the law and all the legitimate interests of all the Central American nations.

"Following the discussions, the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and Support Group decided:

"1. To reaffirm that the process of diplomatic negotiation sponsored by the Contadora Group is the only feasible way to reach a political understanding that will allow, along with the signing and enforcement of the Contadora act for peace and cooperation in Central America, the fulfillment of the commitments included in the document, which are the essential bases for peace in the area.

"2. To invite the five Central American governments to a meeting on 6 June 1986 in Panama City to conclude officially the negotations of the text of the Contadora act and proceed to make it formal.

"3. To invite the five Central American governments to resume immediately the negotiations on the only two items that are pending in the Contadora act, that is, control and reduction of armaments and international military maneuvers, based on the proposals presented by the Contadora Group.

"4. These invitations are issued in the hope that the corresponding answers will be given within 8 days.

"5. To reiterate that in order to achieve peace in the region it is necessary that all parties and countries having any links and interests in the region abstain from providing support to the irregular forces or the insurrectional movements operating in any of the countries in the region or trying to disrupt or destabilize the constitutional order of the American states through force or terrorism of any kind.

"6. To reaffirm that any meddling in the domestic affairs of one state by another state is incompatible with the principles and norms of the UN and OAS Charters, in addition to being a flagrant violation of the international legal order.

"The foreign ministers of the member-countries of the Contadora and Support Groups reiterate their approval of the initiatives by the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments to form a civilian mission to investigate incidents and inspect the border between the two countries with the participation of the representatives of each one of these groups to conduct a general inspection of the common border in April 1986, to determine the needs of the civilian mission in order to establish it as soon as possible.

"Likewise, and at the request of the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments, the Contadora and Support Groups will immediately begin the necessary efforts before the EEC to obtain the human, material, and financial support necessary for the operation of the civilian mission.

"The foreign ministers hereby voice their appreciation to the foreign minister of the Low Countries [as received], Hans van der Broek, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities, for his attendance at this meeting, which reaffirms the support of the 12 to the peace efforts of the Contadora Group.

"In concluding, they also wish to thank the Government of Panama for its hospitality and the president of the Republic for his inspiring words."

The final communique is signed by the four foreign ministers of Contadora and the four foreign ministers of the Support Group, but not by the five Central American foreign ministers.

LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT OPENS SESSIONS

PA060009 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 4 Apr 86 p 5

[Text] Guatemala City 4, Apr -- The special session of the Latin American Parliament that opened here yesterday could conclude with resolutions condemning armed intervention against Nicaragua and an open rejection of the economic aid for the contras, according to statements by the parliament's most important leaders.

The meeting was solemnly convened yesterday during a special ceremony at the legislature presided over by Deputy Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, president of the Guatemalan Congress; Senator Luis A. Leon, president of the Latin American Parliament; and Senator Andres Townsend Ezcurra, secretary general. The Latin American Parliament was founded 20 years ago and currently has 19 member-countries.

The opening ceremony began shortly after 1000 when Cabrera Hidalgo opened the plenary session. Ramiro de Leon Carpio, former president of the National Constituent Assembly, attended as a special guest. He will also participate as an observer in the working sessions that began yesterday afternoon in the hearing room of the Supreme Court of Justice.

In his opening speech, Cabrera said that the democratizing process in Guatemala has been costly and that, just like other Central American countries, Guatemala has encountered dire difficulties in building democracy. Cabrera lashed out at the dictatorial regimes of the past and accused them of forgetting and scorning the people without due consideration for human values and dignity.

Cabrera stressed that this international parliamentarians' meeting represents a historic challenge, because a new generation of political leaders will discuss peace and democracy in Central America.

Finally, he reaffirmed the purpose of democratic politicians to bequeath a new homeland full of love, justice, and peace to its children.

In addition, Secretary General Townsend Ezcurra, in a clear allusion to the interventionist policy in Central America, said that every aggression against an area country will be an offense against Latin America at large. Townsend indicated that this meeting could have been held in any other country, but the convergence of Latin American parliamentarians in Guatemala indicates support for the democratizing process initiated with the installation of a civilian regime on 14 January.

Latin American Parliament President Leon also severely criticized "some hegemonic powers that think Latin America can continue to be a colonial reserve."

Delegates Address Session

PA060402 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Apr 86 pp 4, 15

[Text] Rene Fortin Magana, Salvadoran representative to the Latin American Parliament, yesterday reported an armed aggression against his country by the Soviet Union through Nicaragua. He encouraged those participating in the special meeting to defend the Central American countries' incipient democracy. Fortin Magana said that the policy of the Christian Democratic Party currently ruling El Salvador smells. His report was presented during the parliament's first working session in the Supreme Court of Justice's visiting room.

The parliamentarians have designated a commission in charge of receiving proposals and drafting a statement that will have to be approved by the plenum prior to its being publicly announced, possibly on Saturday. Luis Leon, the parliament's president, indicated that this organization will seek a consensus to highlight the solidarity of the Latin American countries with each other.

The Costa Rican delegation was the first to take the floor and advocated an active and lasting neutrality to force a dialogue. Cuban representative Ramon Ferro Pez blamed the United States for the Central American crisis and asked the parliamentarians to issue a statement condemning "the aggressive stance toward Nicaragua."

Fortin Magana was the next speaker. He refuted the Cuban parliamentarian's request and asked his colleagues not to take any unilateral stances by condemning a single power, because this would b e tantamount to closing eyes to reality and playing along with an extracontinental power that initiated an armed aggression against a Central American country.

Representative Ricardo Gomez spoke on behalf of Guatemala and referred to the current Central American crisis. He said that the Christian Democratic government has facilitated this Latin American meeting to contribute toward peace and justice in this region.

The meeting is being attended by 18 delegations. Twenty minutes are allocated each for their speeches. Activities will continue today. A Canadian mission is also attending as an observer. The meeting will close tomorrow, Saturday, in an event presided over by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo. Later the visitors will go to Antigua.

During the meeting, copies of the parliament's statements on the case of Haiti were disseminated. In these statements, the parliament repudiated totalitarian regimes and expressed its identification with peoples who struggle for the liberation of subjugated countries. Also, copies of the Lima statement about the Central American area's tensions and violence, as well as foreign factors that affect this situation, were disseminated.

Contras, Belize Discussed

PA060058 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 4 Apr 86 p 5

[Text] Andres Townsend Ezcurra, Latin American Parliament secretary general, yesterday described the contras who fight against the Sandinist People's Army as "an army of mercenaries" and asserted that, during the discussions about Central America's peace and democratization, efforts will be made for a resolution asking the U.S. Senate and House not to vote for the aid that (President) Reagan has requested for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

Townsend flatly indentified with the Contadora Group and the Caraballeda statement for a peaceful solution in the area.

"It is a fact that there are Russian and U.S. tanks in Central America. What we want is for (the tanks) to leave the area so that the Central American peoples themselves can find a solution," he said.

Townsend Ezcurra also expressed his personal opinion that Belize is part of Guatemalan territory.

The senator was reminded that in 1971 the Latin American Parliament announced its "identification" with Guatemala's struggle to recover this territory but that this identification toppled when the moment to vote at the United Nations arrived. The Latin American countries voted against Guatemala.

Townsend regretted this, but said that he found an explanation in a phenomenon of the time, that most of the continent's regimes were dictatorial.

Finally, he said that Belize will not join the Latin American Parliament so long as Guatemala does not recognize its independence and approve Belize's acceptance as a member.

Cuba's Bravo on War Risks

PA050023 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2052 GMT 3 Apr 86

[By Mario Rolando Sierra]

[Text] Guatemala, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Flavio Bravo, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government, said here today that "the risks of a war in Central America because of U.S. meddling are great." Bravo heads the delegation of four deputies participating in the special assembly of the Latin American Parliament that opened in Guatemala City today.

Referring to the strife-torn Central American situation, "resulting from the confrontation between the Sandinists and the Ronald Reagan government," the Cuban representative affirmed that "the case of Nicaragua is of tremendous importance for Central America and Latin America."

He said that in the wake of the "heroic war against the Somoza dictatorship," the Sandinist regime "wants to be democratic, pluralistic, and independent."

He added that the Nicaraguan Government "wants the country to develop, because, like nearly all the Central American countries, it was in a state of tremendous underdevelopment, but the United States does not want anyone in Central America to be independent and free of its dictates." Bravo added: "We believe that revolutions like Nicaragua's are not imported, but the product of the historic need for structural, political, economic, and social change."

He added: "People cannot go on living as before. The world has changed, but the North Americans have not noticed and want to continue victimizing our people with their policy of gunboats, aggression, and intervention." Bravo affirmed that U.S. intervention took place "in the past and not so long ago in Santo Domingo and Grenada. The United States does not understand the need for historic change."

With respect to Cuba's position in the event of a direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, the Cuban deputy stated: "In the first place, we have to prevent such a crime, and the Latin American and world community must prevent an intervention." Referring to the United States, he said: "It is already involved in this dirty war, organizing mercenaries with arms and money and providing transportation for the former Somozists who operate on the Nicaraguan border."

He added that many things can be done, but "the North Amerians are going to commit a grave error if they attempt a direct aggression against Nicaragua, because the Nicaraguan people are ready to face them." He said: "The forest could be set on fire, so to speak, and this could become not only a war with Nicaragua but a generalized aggression." The Cuban deputy believes that "the war would be bad for the peoples, who would be subjected to the criminal military superiority of the United States, but in the end the United States would be defeated, in what would be another Vietnam."

Bravo believes that the United States "underestimated Vietnam, which was a small, poor country, without weapons but with a tremendous will to defend its liberty and life, and this could happen in Central and South America." From Cuba one can see "a great risk of a war in Central America because of Reagan's arrogant attitude of trying to impose a classical Central American dictatorship in Nicaragua," he said.

Bravo indicated that "Reagan made history as the biggest liar among U.S. presidents" when he told the House and the Senate that Nicaragua threatens the security of his country." [quotation marks as received] "No one believes that," he added, "because Nicaragua is a poor and backward country with 2 million inhabitants. Reagan does not want anyone in Central America to be free and sovereign with a policy of nonalignment."

He added that there cannot be a solution for the Central American crisis until the United States "puts a stop to the aggression against Nicaragua and its arrogance and military intervention." "The truth is, he said, "there are no disputes among the Central American countries. There are no big problems, because they are brother countries under similar development conditions."

Nunez Addresses Parliament

PA052235 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] During the meeting of the Latin American Parliament in Guatemala City today, commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly, charged that for (?5) years our people have been suffering an aggression from the U.S. Government.

Nunez asked the Latin American Parliament that peace and democracy be [words indistinct] with sovereignty [words indistinct] Nicaragua, a small, poor, underdeveloped, and long-suffering country is defending its sovereignty [words indistinct] peace and democracy. He reported the chain of aggressions that the Ronald Reagan government has directly or indirectly launched against Nicaragua in the economic and military fields.

C.A. Parliament Proposed

PA060334 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] In its meeting this morning, the Latin American Parliament discussed the proposal that a Central American parliament be created and the request for support for this idea. The proposal was presented by the delegation of Guatemalan deputies attending the meeting. It had been drafted by the Central American Integration Commission of the Guatemalan Congress.

In a meeting this morning the delegates from Central America agreed to establish the Central American parliament with appointments made by the congresses and national assemblies of the respective countries. It was said that subsequently, although no specific time was given, the Central American parliament would be chosen by popular consultation and would be subject to direct guidance by the peoples of the area.

A Colombian delegate today asked the parliament to discuss a resolution of support for the Contadora Group in its efforts to achieve peace in Central America. He also asked for similar resolutions in favor of the Support Group and for the resolutions of Caraballeda and Punta del Este. The Colombian delegate also called for the elimination of military bases in Central America, the repeal of political agreements with forces outside the area, the immediate departure of foreign military advisers and troops, and the elimination of aid for subversive and terrorist groups. Colombia is opposed to all overt or covert intervention in the internal affairs of the Central American countries, he said.

Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, president of the Guatemalan Congress, said that the efforts of the parliament to find fair and decorous solutions to the Central American conflict are invaluable and will surely have positive results. This noble gesture by our Latin American brothers will be recompensed by the attainment of the much-desired peace on the isthmus, which will make it possible for Central Americans to coexist in peace and democracy, Cabrera Hidalgo said.

Cabrera Hidalgo later said that Guatemala and the other Central American countries are confident that tomorrow the parliament will issue important recommendations for resolving the regional conflict, recommendations which will hopefully be implemented by the parties involved. We are prepared to implement all recommendations that seek peace in the region, he said. We have always expressed our democratic convictions and our profound hope that Central America will be a single nation in which there are no conflicts between brothers and where harmony will be our most prominent characteristic.

U.S. Policy Condemned

PA060429 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The delegations attending the special assembly of the Latin American Parliament have agreed almost unanimously to condemn the current U.S. Government's policy toward Nicaragua. This was one of the main conclusions reached at the meeting, rejected only by Honduras, which maintained a position in favor of President Reagan's policy. El Salvador adopted a more moderate stance on the subject. The rest of the countries, including Guatemala, voiced their opposition to the U.S. attitude in this continent.

The parliament representatives, who convened in the courtroom of the Supreme Court of Justice, condemned the U.S. Congress for trying to implement and step up the arms race by giving the contras $100 million in economic aid. They also condemned President Reagan's open and public participation in promoting war in the region, which could bring more poverty and suffering to the peoples in the area.

Another point stressed during the special session was the support given to the Contadora Group's peace efforts, as well as to the Lima Support Group. The parliament also demanded the dismantling of U.S. military bases in Central America and the withdrawal of all military advisers.

The countries that participated in the special assembly through their parliamentary delegations favored unanimously the creation of a similar Central American parliament, emphasizing the need to resort to this type of instrument of dialogue to resolve the crisis in the region.

CAPUTO ON NEED FOR C.A. PEACE EFFORTS

PY050112 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1940 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (NA) -- Today Foreign Minister Dante Caputo warned that threats that peace efforts may "not be implemented" in Central America "are real" and reiterated that the situation in that region is becoming "increasingly complex." Caputo left for Panama this afternoon accompanied by his Brazilian counterpart, Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre, and Uruguayan counterpart Enrique Iglesias, to participate in the meeting to be held 5-6 April by the Contadora Group, its Support Committee and the five Central American countries.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Brock will also take part in the meeting on behalf of the EEC, which gives its full support to the Contadora Group's peace-keeping efforts. Caputo said that Van den Brock's participation "is much appreciated and very important because it shows that all the Western countries support this proposal."

The Argentine foreign minister termed the 48-hour meeting to be held on the Contadora Island as "another step aimed at securing peace in the region, where the situation is becoming increasingly complex," he added that the threats that peace efforts may not be implemented are real. Caputo noted that "we are faced with the need to resort to audacity, decision, and imagination to be able to solve, through the diplomatic path which is always the most complex, a state of tension and conflict" in Central America.

Changing the subject, Caputo denied a report that Argentina will allegedly "demand" the fulfillment of the UN resolution regarding the need to resume talks over the future of the Malvinas Islands. Caputo stated: "I do not think the term 'demand' is correct, because UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has always expressed his desire to cooperate with the resolutions" of the international organization. Caputo noted that if Perez de Ceullar's efforts "have not been successful, it has not been the UN secretary general's fault but rather the fault of the British Government's intransigency."

Caputo recalled that in a speech last night, during a reception in his honor given by President Alfonsin, Perez de Cueller reiterated his proposal and promised to "fulfill the mission entrusted to him by the UN Resolution." The Argentine foreign minister stated that the Argentine position "cannot be any other than to always be willing to start a negotiation with the United Kingdom that will not exclude the subject of sovereignty."

SOURROUILLE LEAVES FOR IMF MEETING IN U.S.

PY062235 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0319 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (TELAM) -- Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille departed at midnight on 5 April for the United States, where he will attend an IMF preliminary meeting on proposals concerning the world financial system. His plane took off from Ezeiza International Airport. Sourrouille, who did not make any remarks, was accompanied by Jose Luis Machinea, under secretary for economic coordination and programming; Juan Trilla, a Radical senator; Diego Guelar, a Justicialist deputy and economist; and by Raul Baglini, a Radical deputy.

Machinea said the Argentine team will state at this meeting that mechanisms aimed at making progress in the Baker Plan should be implemented. Machinea added that Argentina had proposed through the Consensus of Cartagena the concept of old debt and new debt, a mechanism he believes can be effectively used to regard the debt as a political issue in line with the Argentine position. He added that a broad national debate should be held among all political groups so that Argentina might grow once and for all. Machinea said: We are going to meet with the General Confederation of Labor, with its economists -- if necessary, we will hold a 2-hour televised debate with them -- to discuss ways to increase consumption through increased production, because this is the only way of overcoming this situation.

SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION NOTES 'SPECIAL INTEREST'

PY042152 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2135 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] La Plata, 3 Apr (DYN) -- At the end of a meeting held with Buenos Aires Governor Alejandro Armendariz, Soviet trade representatives commented on the USSR's "special interest" in contributing to Argentine development. This topic had already been studied by both parties during Armendariz' visit to Moscow last year. Aleksandr Kovalev, head of the Russian delegation, said that "the Soviet Union could cooperate with Argentina in the technological area by furnishing road construction machinery, and power substation equipment." He did not rule out the possibility of cooperation in various sectors of the industrial area. In conclusion, the USSR trade attache said: "Our intention is to find concrete ways of achieving a fully equalitarian and mutually beneficial cooperation."

BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF ARRIVES

PY041647 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0101 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (DYN) -- Bolivian Air Force Commander in Chief General Jorge Rodriguez Bravo today arrived in Argentina on an official visit during which he will hold talks with his Argentine counterpart Brigadier Horacio Crespo. Rodriguez Bravo arrived at noon today at the metropolitan airport and was met by Crespo, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff Brigadier Roberto Camblor, and military attaches to the Bolivian Embassy in Buenos Aires. In the afternoon, Crespo held a luncheon for Gen Rodriguez Bravo in which Argentine officers and Bolivian officials participated. Afterward, Rodriguez Bravo held meetings with Joint Chief of Staff General Teodoro Waldner, Defense Secretary Horacio Jaunarena, and Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu. Tonight, Crespo will host another reception for his Bolivian counterpart in which he will decorate him with the Air Force Great Cross of the May Order of Merit.

INTERIOR MINISTER FORBIDS DEMONSTRATIONS

PY071413 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy believes that the current political status quo is a source of concern that could lead to the levying of the state of siege. Barthelemy said that the Interior Ministry intelligence services are constantly reviewing the situation and have ascertained that teachers and students are being compelled to attend rallies and demonstrations. Regarding the strike, which will begin at 0000 on 8 April, and the workers' leaders statements indicating that it will be a strike and a mobilization, the interior minister warned that no outrages will be permitted.

[Begin Barthelemy recording] First of all I want to make it very clear that we will not allow roadblocks. We have said time and again that we will resort to any means available to us to prevent roadblocks, because they restrict the freedom to which all Bolivians are entitled and because they are organized by a very small sector, or very small sectors, of the Bolivian population. Therefore, we will not allow any roadblocks. In the second place, in view of past problems we have experienced in La Paz during demonstrations, including the destruction of public monuments and other fixtures, we will be very severe and will break up any demonstration from the very start. This time we will not allow any demonstration even to get organized. [end recording]

Barthelemy went on to say that the Armed Forces are ready to help the police, which is provided for in the Constitution.

[Begin recording] In keeping with constitutional provisions, it is the duty of the Armed Forces to maintain public order whenever the police are unable to control the situation. The Armed Force and the police are on alert. [end recording]

The interior minister added that there are groups trying to disrupt the constitutional order with partisan objectives in mind.

[Begin recording] These groups want to create a situation that could allow them to establish a dictatorial government in the country, which means, of course, that they oppose democracy. These are their goals, and we are aware of certain contacts that have been taking place between certain political and trade union groups to carry out actions aimed at immersing the country in chaos and anarchy sufficiently to justify a change of government. This could only be accomplished by severing the democratic process. [end recording]

You have just heard the interior minister's warning that no demonstrations or roadblocks will be allowed.

COB REQUESTS MEETING WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR

PY071429 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] has asked for a meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, according to COB Executive Secretary Juan Lechin Oquendo. Lechin explained that during this meeting the UN secretary general will be advised of the problems besieging the country.

[Begin Lechin recording] We have instructed one of our comrades to ask Mr Perez de Cuellar to receive us so we can inform him of all the violations, of the Constitution and of the laws, that this government has perpetrated. We believe that this government is authoritarian, no longer democratic, because it has Congress and the courts under its thumb. The courts are unconditionally at the service of the government. [end recording]

Lechin also reiterated his position regarding the government's handling of the education problem and accused it of trying to privatize state education, which is dangerous as far as he is concerned. As to the strike that will take place tomorrow, the COB executive secretary said that it will follow the usual pattern, which means that only emergency services will operate. Regarding communications, Lechin indicated that he will discuss the situation with the appropriate trade union leaders this afternoon.

[Begin Lechin recording] As usual, all emergency services will work. [end recording]

In conclusion, Juan Lechin said that the workers have decided to strike, despite threats to discount the time lost from their salaries, because they are aware of the teachers' problems and this will be shown by the fact that the heads of families will join the mobilization.

POLICE DISPERSE LA PAZ RALLY WITH TEAR GAS

PY050412 Paris AFP in Spanish 0033 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpts] La Paz, 4 Apr (AFP) -- Fathers of families, teachers, and students met today in a massive rally at the San Francisco Plaza of this city and they harshly condemned President Victor Paz Estenssoro's economic policy. The rally is a part of a series of demonstrations being carried out on nearly a daily basis in several Bolivian cities. During the rally the speakers demanded that the government increase the budgets of the educational sector, the universities, and the public health sector instead of intending to pay the foreign debt. The rally was dispersed with a rain of tear gas bombs fired by the police.

GARCIA MEZA APPEARS BEFORE SUPREME COURT

PY072141 Paris AFP in Spanish 2102 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 7 Apr (AFP) -- Former Bolivian de facto President Luis Garcia Meza (1980-1981) today unexpectedly appeared before the Supreme Court in Sucre, the nation's capital, to stand trial on charges of having committed the following crimes during his administration: murder, involvement in cocaine trafficking, human rights violations, and embezzlement of public funds. According to radio broadcasts monitored in La Paz, Garcia Meza is now answering questions from the justices.

MINERS' LEADER ARRESTED FOR ROLE IN PROTESTS

PY042150 Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 4 Apr (AFP) -- Juan Lechin Oquendo and Walter Delgadillo, the highest leaders of the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), today reported the arrest of Daniel Ordonez, leader of the Mineworkers' Federation. They demanded his immediate release. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy explained that Ordonez was arrested because he had delivered weapons to the demonstrators who were participating in protest marches staged in the city of Oruro, 200 km southwest of La Paz, during the last few days. Lechin Oquendo said that Barthelemy's charges were false, and warned that the government is looking for reasons to decree a new state of siege, as it did last September. Moreover, it was recalled that the COB has decreed a national 24-hour stoppage for 7 April. [as received]

SARNEY PROCLAIMED HONORARY PMDB PRESIDENT

PY071641 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] President Sarney was proclaimed honorary party president and Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes was reelected party president for the eighth consecutive time at the national convention of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB] in Brasilia. One of the salient points of the PMDB national convention, which was held in the Chamber of Deputies, was the presence of President Jose Sarney, who thanked the PMBD for proclaiming him honorary party president. The president of the republic was greeted by Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro, who stressed the work the government of the New Republic has performed in favor of the Brazilian people. He especially mentioned what he called the three revolutions:

[Begin Montoro recording] He is conducting three different revolutions [words indistinct]: The political revolution, the main responsibility of which is based on the next national constituent assembly. The great economic revolution, the most courageous and complete revolution set forth in Brazil, which has changed our economy into a social revolution, a social change, and a mobilization of our people who no longer are the compulsory object of government actions, but have become the participating agent of the reforms, which are in the interest of our people. [end recording]

On taking the floor, President Sarney stressed the (?economic policy) he is conducting, and that he has the support of the PMDB and of its president, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes.

[Begin Sarney recording] I have tried to fulfill my duties, (?enhancing) the political sector, strengthening the role of civilian rule, and urging all sectors to work with an austere government that wants to serve Brazil exclusively. It would be impossible to achieve this without the PMDB, without Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, this outstanding figure of the republic who has rendered extraordinary services to the country's current political history. [end recording]

After stating that he will not divert one milimeter from the path he outlined in defense of the national interests, he recalled the memory of Tancredo Neves, stating:

[Begin Sarney recording] The PMDB has a tradition of struggle and indelible services rendered to Brazilian life: The struggle for the institutions, the struggle for freedom [words indistinct]. My participation in this convention represents the reiteration of my commitment: I will not divert one millimeter from the path outlined for serving Brazil, our banner, and our fellow workers. This is a commitment to the memory of Tancredo Neves, who will always represent a symbol of struggle, of sacrafice, and of martyrdom. [end recording]

The following ministers accompanied President Sarney in the Chamber of Deputies plenary session: Civil Household Chief Marco Maciel and Technology Chief Renato Archer. On leaving the National Congress, President Sarney stated that the PMDB has become stronger after the convention. The president also granted a brief press conference in the midst of great confusion. When everything returned to normal, he finally managed to answer the reporters' questions. Regarding the convention, he said that the PMDB has been strengthened by the convention. [recorded passage of press conference indistinct]

PMDB Board Members Named

PY071855 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Excerpts] On being reconfirmed as president of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes stated that the party will serve future generations. The PMDB plenary session, held in the Chamber of Deputies to elect the national leadership, ended yesterday afternoon. Counting of the 582 votes deposited in the ballot boxes began immediately. The single ticket proposing Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes as president obtained 540 votes, with 13 blank votes, 12 void, and 14 not counted [figures as heard].

Guimaraes later stated that the PMDB will (?conclude) its national congress soon, and that it is getting ready for new efforts as the party of the future generations. Guimaraes then called on the members of the board elected at the convention to elect the National Executive Board of the party.

The National PMDB Executive Board was thus elected:

President: Ulysses Guimaraes
First vice president: Senator Pedro Simon
Second vice president: Deputy Miguel Arraes
Third vice president: Affonso Camargo
First secretary: Deputy Euclides Scalco
Second secretary: Maria da Conceicao Tavares
Treasuer: Mauro Benavides
Deputy Treasurer: Walmor de Luca
Board menbers: Francisco Pinto, Roberto Cardoso Alves, Cid Sampaio, and (Jorge Pedalada)
Senate leader: Antonio Campos
Chamber of Deputies leader: Pimenta da Veiga.

BARGE CARRYING EXPLOSIVES SEIZED IN MANAUS

PY080213 Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Manaus, Brazil, 7 Apr (AFP) -- A barge loaded with 18,600 kg of explosives -- electrical fuses and dynamite -- has been anchored off the port of Manaus since last week. The barge was placed under custody of the Naval Police because it violated basic safety rules and because it is believed its cargo was intended for the Colombian M-19 guerrilla organization. The barge, which is called LS, was detained last Friday by the Brazilian Federal Police, who were conducting a search following the discovery of 19 drums of acetone and ether that were apparently intended for clandestine cocaine laboratories at the Brazilian border with Colombia. The search led to the discovery of the explosives. A port official said the explosives could blow half of Manaus into pieces. The Colombian consul general in Manaus requested that the Colombian Embassy in Brasilia confirm whether the cargo was imported by the Colombian Government as stated in the seemingly legal shipping documents.

POWERFUL BLAST SHAKES DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO

PY070100 Paris AFP in Spanish 1343 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 6 Apr (AFP) -- Police sources have reported that a violent blast today shook downtown Santiago, causing substantial damage to the facade of a bank branch building and to several stores but not causing any casualties.

The blast occurred at the corner of the Ahumada and Huerfanos Promenades in the heart of the Chilean capital. It caused alarm and uneasiness among the few passers-by in the area.

A large police patrol and several security agents have begun an intense dragnet to arrest those responsible for the blast, which shattered windows in some offices of the bank branch and the display windows of several stores.

On 5 April in Lota, 540 km south of Santiago, a bomb placed by unknown persons went off near a Carabineros substation shattering glass but injuring no one.

In the meantime, unknown persons on the same day tossed a Molotov cocktail at a bus and set it on fire. The bus was parked in the densely populated neighborhood of Vivaceta.

Last week, the wave of violence claimed the life of progovernment city leader Simon Yevene, while policeman Hernan Martinez was stabbed, and some 10 members of the opposition were wounded.

MINISTER SAYS 1986 DEFENSE BUDGET SMALLER

PY051804 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal has said that everyone must support the measures aimed at maintaining the Armed Forces, because the objective of the Armed Forces is to defend all Chileans. The minister made this statement during a ceremony at the Virgen del Carmen Shrine marking the 168th anniversary of the battle of Maipu.

Vice Adm Patricio Carvajal explained that this year the Defense Ministry budget is smaller than in 1985. He added: I will issue a well-grounded statement on the budget, and I will give all the figures. I will thus show that our budget allocation is much smaller than the figure claimed by those who criticize us and who are trying to prove that our defense spending is excessive.

The defense minister condemned the murder of leader Simon Yevene at the hands of terrorists. All the people should stop and reflect on this fact and should support the forces of order in their struggle against crime and terrorism.

EMERGENCY ZONE COMMANDER ISSUES NEW EDICT

PY042139 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The commander of the metropolitan zone and San Antonio Province, in a state of emergency, today issued Edict No 43, superseding Edicts 38 and 39. This new edict sets new guidelines regarding the right to hold meetings.

One of the resolutions states that the holding of meetings in public or private places, halls, theaters, or cinemas must be authorized by the garrison commander.

It adds that schools can be used only for meetings relating to education or other appropriate educational activities that are in keeping with current laws and statutes.

The new edict also refers to places regularly used for worship, such as temples, and states that only those meetings organized for the purpose of cult and worship will be authorized.

The new edict states that meetings of political or party nature are forbidden.

135-MEMBER DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR PRC VISIT

PY042128 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Relations Deputy Minister General Sergio Covarrubias is presiding over the 135-member delegation, which today left on a goodwill mission to the PRC. The objective of this 2-week trip is to increase bilateral relations in the political, economic, trade, military, cultural, and sports fields.

A Chilean Air Force delegation under the command of the 10th Region Intendant Jaime Lavin Farina will make the trip. It includes an undetermined number of students from the Aeronautics War and Politechnical Academy. This delegation has a timetable that was prepared by the PRC Defense Ministry.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry is represented by 14 officials including the wife of Deputy Minister Covarrubias. They will hold meetings with the PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Zhu Qizhen, with Foreign Trade Director Liu Zepu, and with representatives of the Antarctic directorate. They will also attend a party.

Fourteen Chilean businessmen will be in charge of strengthening economic and trade ties. Santiago Mayor Carlos Bombal and Santiago municipality director will also participate in the tour and will hold meetings with the mayors of Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqin, and Shanghai.

Mayor Bombal said that one of the first things he will do is to propose that Beijing and Santiago be declared sister cities.

Members of the national soccer team of juniors and of the [name indistinct] team are also part of the delegation and they will play soccer in five Chinese cities.

NICARAGUAN CLAIM TO ISLANDS CALLED 'CRAZY'

PA071546 Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota, 7 Apr (AFP) -- Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez today described Nicaragua's sovereignty claim over the San Andres and Providencia Archipelago in Colombia's Caribbean ocean as "crazy" (delirante).

"It is an incomprehensible attitude," Ramirez said to Cadena Radial RCN over the telephone from Panama where he is attending the Contadora Group meeting which, he admitted, "is having difficulties."

According to remarks by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, the Sandinist government disregarded the validity of a treaty (Esguerra-Barcenas) signed in 1928 which recognized the Colombian sovereignty over the archipelago. "We have nothing to discuss with Nicaragua about our sovereignty," Ramirez said adding that "perhaps Foreign Minister D'Escoto's remarks were only made for local consumption."

"It is a crazy, unacceptable and illegal claim, because there is a legal contract duly signed and recognized by the international community," the Colombian diplomat said.

Meanwhile, a movement rejecting Managua's claim began to emerge today in the archipelago, and there was some public rejection of it early on Monday. In fact, hundreds of San Andres citizens and tourists from the Colombian mainland walked through the streets to reject the Nicaraguan claim. Chanting "We are Colombian," the protestors accused the Managua regime of deceiving Nicaraguans and changing the goals of the revolution. "The Colombian territorial sovereignty in San Andres and Providercia is not negotiable under any circumstances," Ramirez said.

"I do not think that Nicaragua will take this issue to the International Court because there is nothing to discuss. In fact, I believe that these remarks by the Nicaraguan foreign minister were made for local political consumption," he noted.

Colombia confronted the United States on the "contra" issue defending the Nicaragua Government; how can it be that Managua now responds to Colombia with aggression? a reporter asked Ramirez. Ramirez replied: "That, of course, is an incomprehensible attitude that Colombians do not understand, but we feel that it is a crazy attitude that will not affect the agreement that was legally signed." In addition, Ramirez admitted that there are serious obstacles for the final signing of the Contadora Document that must achieve peace in Central America.

He recalled that at the sessions of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) this weekend, Nicaragua refused to sign an agreement that moves closer to the pacification goal. "Nicaragua refused to sign the document because it claims that there will not be peace in the region as long as there is what the Sandinists call the U.S. aggression against that country," Ramirez recalled. "I think that it is only an excuse," Ramirez said without any further explanations.

However, he said that he trusts that a deadline for signing the document can be established. "We definitely hope to pave the way and eliminate all the obstacles," he maintained. He insisted that Contadora, with the backing of the Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay), and most Central Americans want to reach an agreement on when to sign the peace document.

"We must set a final date to the negotiating process," he said. He explained that much progress has been made regarding that objective and therefore "what we have been seeking here is precisely that: to establish a fixed date to end the negotiation on the document and proceed to sign it."

EMBASSY IN LIMA DAMAGED IN BOMB ATTACK

PA050453 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] The Colombian Embassy in Lima was attacked last night. In a night of attacks when four U.S.-owned enterprises and the Colombian Embassy were attacked with bombs and firearms, one person was killed, another wounded, and material damage was caused. The Colombian Embassy was damaged by the explosion of a bomb, but no personal injuries occurred.

AMERICA BATTALION REPORTEDLY LEAVES COUNTRY

PA071818 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] According to the defense minister, the foreign subversives who came to our country to form the so-called America Battalion have now left, leaving the M-19 alone in its mad struggle to seize power.

Simultaneously, it has been learned through reports from Peru and Ecuador that the (?leaders) of the Alfaro Lives and Tupac Amaru terrorist movements have asked the guerrillas of those movements who are in Colombia to leave because the (?subversive operations) of the so-called America Battalion have failed.

Armed clashes between troops of the 3d Army Brigade located in Cali and presumed M-19 guerrillas in Cali's higher areas, that is, at Siloe District, have been going on since last night. Thus far, it is not known if either side has suffered any casualties. However, according to the official report, the clashes have been heavy, even though it has been raining in Cali since yesterday. The exact location of the fighting in Siloe District, in western Cali, has not been reported.

Defense Minister Miguel Vega Uribe urged greater solidarity among Colombians to achieve the peace everybody longs for and noted that at this moment we have lost [word indistinct], which has been used by the insurgent movements to sow chaos in the nation.

EDITORIAL RAISES FEARS OF LIBYAN ATTACK ON CANAL

PA051841 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Apr 86 p 4a

[Editorial: "International Terrorism and the Panama Canal"]

[Text] According to information widely disseminated by international press agencies, Libya's top leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in one of his most recent public appearances threatened to launch "retaliatory" attacks against the United States worldwide. These statements were bombastically commented on by the only Tripoli newspaper, AL-FAJR AL-JADID, which has left no doubt as to the spirit of vengeance which stirs the Libyan Government regarding Washington's international policy.

During the last few years Libya has repeatedly been pointed out as a focus of international terrorism, where subversive militants are trained from all over the world, and where sinister plans are conceived against free and democratic countries such as France, Italy, Israel, Austria, and others in whose territories sinister and regrettable incidents have occurred leaving a large number of innocent victims.

In view of this it seems wise that the United States take strict security measures in places considered vulnerable, such as naval bases, airports, railroads, thermonuclear study installations, space facilities, etc... and most particularly the Panama Canal, which, despite the validity of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, is still a U.S. asset until the end of the century.

Since Panama is now more than ever a partner of the United States in the administration and operation of the Canal, the Panamanians must, of course, participate in the implementation of security measures the Pentagon may adopt to defend the Canal, which is at the service of the world's civilization.

No one should be mistaken about this: Any attack on the Canal would harm not only the United States, but, in particular, Panama, as co-owner of the canal and as owner of the land. An attack could also physically affect the people because the weapons of international terrorism are powerful and atrocious. Those who mastermind terrorist actions, as well as those who carry them out seek goals of their own in complete disregard for the human losses they may cause.

We feel that the Panamanian Government and the National Defense Forces currently have a delicate mission to fulfill in regard to the topic we are discussing here. This mission can be fulfilled through an effective coordination with the United States and without any exaggerations that may frighten the civilian population. What should be carried out is the implementation of a program involving military, political, and administrative security and vigilance. Our immigration officials will have to increase their efficiency in order to prevent our open door policy from permitting that terrorists enter our country easily to carry out their sinister job.

In statements published by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in December 1985, General Manuel Antonio Noriega warned Panamanians and canal authorities about the possible threat of terrorist attacks originating on a certain Caribbean island, where agents of various nationalities were actively involved in training activities. Gen Noriega's warning was heard throughout the world, and there were some people in our country who called it unfounded fear. However, the international incidents we are discussing in this editorial fully back the commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces.

Libyan dictator Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his newspaper AL-FAJR AL-JADID have said it clearly. The governments and peoples who have ears to listen should do so.

Canal Safety U.S. Responsibility

PA052258 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 5 Apr 86 p 4

["Firing Line" column by Jose Franco: "The Canal, a Military Objective?"; upper case passages as published]

[Text] "I would never sell my people's rich heritage because of necessity." JOSE ARTIGAS. The extreme security measures adopted by the Canal administration at strategic points of the Canal call for a serious reflection about the real motives and the reasons that could be found to prevent the canal from becoming a MILITARY TARGET.

In the first place, we feel that if the Canal became a MILITARY TARGET, the only one responsible for it would be the U.S. Government which, disregarding its contractual commitments, has been using the bases in the Canal area for its military interventions, as has been repeatedly reported by foreign press dispatches, including those of the United States.

We recall that on various occasions the Panamanian Government and the international news agencies have reported this type of military action. Such actions, if true, violate the Neutrality Treaty which limits the role of the North Americans in Panama to the protection and defense of the Canal.

By intervening in conflicts somewhere else from the bases in the Canal basin, the United States is taking sides in foreign political conflicts, thus making the Panamanian canal a potential MILITARY TARGET for U.S. enemies. For this reason, it is imperative for the Canal's security and the neutrality that the United States comply with the agreement and stop using Panamanian soil for operations that have no relation with its military presence in the country. When this happens, we are sure, there will not be any reason for the display of security measures which the Panamanian community resents today.

PROBE CONCLUDES SPADAFORA KILLED WITHIN BORDERS

PA052320 Paris AFP in Spanish 1510 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] San Jose, 5 Apr (AFP) -- Following several months of investigations, Costa Rican Judicial Police established that guerrilla Hugo Spadafora was murdered in Panama and that his beheaded body was later thrown into Costa Rican territory. Likewise, judicial investigators stated that several witnesses saw a G-2 agent, of the Panamanian Defense Forces, a man whose last name is Gonzalez, "accompanying" Hugo Spadafora in the Paso Canoas border area the day that Spadafora was murdered, on 13 September 1985. The report added that Gonzalez, whose nickname is "Bruce Lee," got on the same bus going from Paso Canoas to Concepcion (Chiriqui) which Spadafora was riding when he was arrested by Panamanian troops, according to unofficial versions.

Costa Rican Attorney General Fernando Cruz said that the probe on the case was hampered by the "irrational fear" the people living along the border zone feel for Panama's military authorities.

The headless body of the former deputy health minister under Omar Torrijos and former comrade-in-arms of Eden Pastora (Commander Cero) showed amputations and signs of torture. However, the motive and perpetrators of this crime remain unknown.

COSTA RICA

MONGE SAYS NICARAGUA HAMPERING CONTADORA WORK

PA071919 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1840 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has stated that if Nicaragua continues to hamper Contadora's work there may not be a political solution to the region's problems.

[Begin recording, in progress][Monge] It was foreseeable because in November Nicaragua said it could not sign the Contadora peace document, alleging that it cannot sign clauses concerning disarmament and the international supervision and control of the armed forces because it is facing the threat of a U.S. aggression as they call it.

A special meeting was to be held this morning because last night, shortly after 0100, there was an impasse in the face of the situation posed by Nicaragua.

There was a formula, but I don't know if it was successful or not. This formula was presented by Honduras, and other countries agreed with it. Honduras suggested that a statement be signed and that in this statement Nicaragua could state at the end that it does not approve of the clauses or concepts of the statement, however that the declaration be signed by all the other countries because we are 13 [figure as heard] countries in agreement and 1 in disagreement.

Those of us who agree should sign the document to state our goodwill and desire for peace in Central America.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think that with this Nicaraguan position we can reach a political pacification of the area?

[Monge] No. We are still facing the terrible dilemma of Nicaragua's saying it will not accept certain commitments so long as there is a U.S. threat, that is, what they refer to as U.S. aggression. [end recording]

EL SALVADOR

COL VARGAS SAYS NO U.S. ADVISERS IN MORAZAN

PA071955 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] There was a clash early this morning in the area of San Isidro in northern Morazan Department. According to military reports, five guerrillas were wounded and medicine was seized. It has also been reported that the "Heroes of Joateca" Operation is continuing throughout Morazan Deparmtent.

Regarding the battles that took place on Saturday in the area of Cacahuatique mountain, Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas [commander in Morazan Department] told YSU that six guerrillas of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade were killed. Regarding the possible death or wounding of a U.S. adviser, Col Vargas said:

[Begin recording] First of all, we do not have U.S. advisers in Morazan Department or in Military Detachment No 4. When U.S. advisers come to areas such as ours, they only visit to coordinate some situations and never for military operations.

Therefore, all of this is definitely the same Marxist propaganda ploy that wants to make the international press believe... [changes thought] or trying to discredit the support that the U.S. Army or the U.S. Government gives to the Salvadoran Government. But definitely in Morazan, we speak Spanish as we are dark-skinned. [sentence as heard] Clearly, there is no direct foreign interference in the operations as in the case with the FMLN which has Nicaraguans, Cubans, and internationalists of other nationalities who only seek the expansion of totalitarian communism. In Morazan Department, we definitely do not carry out either semipermanent or permanent interference in the operations. That is what I can emphatically state.

FMLN CLAIMS U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE INCREASING

PA080209 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Several hundred North Americans, most of them Vietnam war veterans, are in El Salvador. They are planning operations with the general staff. They are in the garrisons, training camps, air bases, and in the zones where the fighting is taking place, accompanying the puppet Army units.

In Morazan, we have noticed that when a U.S. plan does not work, the presence of U.S. personnel keeps increasing. Colonel Beltran Luna was in charge when the first U.S. mercenaries arrived. The influence of the U.S. advisers increased in Morazan when Colonel Calite was in command. With Domingo Monterrosa, U.S. military officers took over the responsibility of running the most important military operations. (?James Steele), chief U.S. adviser, made no effort to conceal the situation; on the contrary, he tried to make his presence in the combat zone in Perquin more obvious during the "Torola-4" operation.

Beltran Luna, Calite, and Monterrosa no longer exist: They are dead. They were executed by the revolutionary vanguard.

In the meantime, the North Americans have increased their direct participation in the war. A few weeks ago a North American lost part of a foot in San Diego, Morazan Department, when he stepped on a revolutionary mine. He was with the Arce Battalion, which is conducting operations in this zone.

We have also seen another North American commanding a unit of the Cacahuatique Battalion, in the zone of Villa del Rosario.

Many of the officers taken to Fort Bragg or other camps in the United States, where they were trained to kick and to kill, are in Morazan. In the United States they were also taught an anticommunist jargon worthy of every gorilla, jargon they repeat every time they open their mouth. They were taught this because they cannot think for themselves.

The North Americans are the ones giving the orders in Gotera. The U.S. Embassy is in direct contact with the puppet they have in San Francisco Gotera, carrying out the counterinsurgency plans that never succeed.

They do not seen to realize that neither the trained gorillas nor the foreign invaders can stop our armed and organized people.

Domingo Monterrosa proved this during his last and fatal trip aboard on of those technological apparatus with which the North Americans thought they could stop the advance of the revolution.

31 MARCH FMLN GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE

PA021942 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command, dated 31 March]

[Text] The plans of the High Command and the Napoleon Duarte government have failed. The U.S. Embassy, Blandon, and the Duarte government, following orders from the Reagan administration, will try in 1986 to reverse the serious political-military crisis being experienced by the Salvadoran Government by making military operations a national priority to weaken the FMLN. Therefore, the economic and political aspects are a function of military plans.

Economic plans are aimed at financing that military effort. Duarte's political actions aim to establish a regional and internal framework favorable to such militaristic plans. Within this framework, the most recent government proposal for dialogue is understandable.

A clear defeat is apparent 3 months after those plans were implemented. The people have opposed financing the war and strengthened their organization and struggle-consciousness. The criminal genocidal nature of Jose Napoleon Duarte has been uncovered; he has increased the ranks of the displaced, as in 1980 and 1981. The terrorist and fascist nature of the current government, which violates and irrespects human rights, has been clearly exposed.

All Salvadorans and the international community realize that Jose Napoleon Duarte is not seeking peace or a just and realist political solution to the serious crisis in the country. As a result of his policy, the current regime is completely isolated. All these factors lead us to believe that the current situation will worsen and have more negative results than in 1980 and 1981.

The High Command's militaristic plans are being defeated. In January, the High Command started Operation "Phoenix" in Guazapa, and a simultaneous operation called "Carlos" in Morazan Department, and continued the "Lieutenant Carlos Carreno" Operation in Chalatenango Department.

The operation consisted of concentrating the elite Belloso, Bracamonte, and Atlacatl Battalions at a point supported by regional forces, brigades, and detachments. After 3 months of fighting, the FMLN General Command concludes that this plan is being defeated throughout the country. This is evidenced by the following facts:

A. The attrition of the puppet Army's operational troops has increased; the heaviest burden of the fighting has fallen on its elite Belloso, Bracamonte, and Atlacatl forces. If we remember that in 1985 the FMLN inflicted more than 6,000 casualties on the Army, especially on their regional forces, we can conclude that they experienced no growth; that the forces recruited replaced the casualties. This fact points to a critical situation in the Army which is compounded by the loss in its immediate reaction capability in the face of blows sustained throughout the country.

In these 3 months alone, we inflicted more than 1,500 casualties; approximately 400 casualties during Operation "Phoenix." To date in Chalatenango, we have inflicted more than 215 casualties.

B. The FMLN maintains its offensive cpability at a national level; it is implementing a plan consisting of ambush, sabotage, and effective transportation stoppages at the national level; it is maintaining medium-scale operations.

C. The Army lost its immediate action capability. We have carried out more than 12 medium-scale operations. The following stand out:

1. The occupation of Juayua, Zacatecoluca, San Pedro Nonualco; the military occupation or sabotage in the following coffee or sugar centers: (Acahuapa), El Martillo Cooperative, and El Refugio, and the destruction of fixed positions such as El Jute in Metapan, Veracruz in Chalatenango, and El Barrancon, in the same department. All these took place because the enemy could not react. This allowed us to seize 78 weapons.

D. The FMLN has developed a high capability to carry out raids in the cities: San Salvador, Santa Ana, Zacatecoluca, San Vicente, Chalatenango, and San Pedro Nonualco were sites of the raids and casualties inflicted on the enemy by our guerrilla units.

E. The FMLN has developed a high capability in the tactics of guerrilla warfare and in the use of explosives; and we have improved our high combat morale. This contasts with the low morale of the enemy, which must increasingly depend on the technical resources of the gringos.

F. The presence of our guerrilla units throughout the country's 14 departments has afforded us a close relationship with the people. It has strengthened support, sympathy, and collaboration of all the people toward our cause. This in turn leads to the organization and strengthening of the struggle capability of the entire people.

G. The permanent mobility of our forces prevents us from being targets and objectives of the Air Force, making its use ineffective against our military units. This military situation poses a critical situation for the High Command due to the inefficiency of its tactics. The growth of its operational troops is stagnant. They are being worn down and face structural and psychological damage in the face of the FMLN's massive use of explosives. In other words, the enemy's military command, not having consolidated its previous objectives, is being forced by U.S. advisers to implement new plans that are doomed to failure from the start.

The U.S. Embassy in El Salvador is trying to implement possible change in the face of the virtual failure of the Duartist government. With the failure of its strategy on the military level, the government crisis is worsening. Duarte, left without political space to implement his demagogical, pseudo-reformist plan, is a worn out figure. Therefore, in the long run, he does not fit in the counterinsurgency project as a facade for the abusive U.S. military escalation in counterinsurgency plans against the just aspirations of liberty and democracy of the Salvadoran people.

The fate of Napoleon Duarte is that of Duvalier or Ferdinand Marcos. By using the figure of Napoleon Duarte, the North Americans cannot contain the democratic struggle and aspirations of our people for peace and independence. By applying pressure and through blackmail, the U.S. Embassy has created an artificial social structure within the Duarte government; it also uses those measures to implement possible changes.

The current enemy plan worsens the crisis that is leading us to an outcome that could be more negative than in 1980 and 1981. Military operations carried out by the Armed Forces from January to March under the U.S. scorched earth counterinsurgency concept have destroyed homes, crops, and animals belonging to thousands of residents of Cuscatlan, Cabanas, and Chalatenango Departments. In Usulutan and Morazan Departments, the Army burned large areas of land to forcefully drive residents out and depopulate the area.

As in 1980, thousands of civilian residents have been violently ejected from their homes. This further complicates the serious social problem in El Salvador. The intensity of operations, the increasing use of aircraft leads to greater state expenditure.

This negatively affects social assistance programs and requires cutbacks in state administration such as the reduction of more than 1,000 employees at the Salvadoran Social Security Institute.

The High Command's military incapability, the ineffectiveness of U.S. tactics, its defensive military strategy demonstrate inability to contain the advance of FMLN military units. All these elements together, added to the total isolation of Napoleon Duarte and a lack of a real political project to solve the current crisis, point to a possible defeat of the Duarte plan. The time has come for all political and social forces in the country to find a broad political formula to the crisis.

A political solution is the only feasible path to solve the current crisis. The presence of our political-military forces in the 14 departments has strengthened guerrilla units' organizational task; popular support for us has increased; our roots in the heart of the people have been strengthened as well.

Our [word indistinct] units, which are the result of our daily fighting at the military level, have improved and are capable of carrying out strategies and tactics designed by the FMLN General Command that is, they are getting stronger, growing, and consolidating.

Our people are aware of this situation. The FMLN is a real power alternative. It cannot be defeated. Army sectors and other social forces see this reflected in the defeat of the counterinsurgency plan; they realize that the democratic and revolutionary forces are assured victory.

The FMLN also understands the situation of all the people who observe how their lot is worsening; these people aspire to peace shortly in El Salvador. Therefore, we reaffirm our conviction that the serious crisis being experienced in El Salvador will only be solved through a negotiated political solution. That is why we call on all social and political forces to unite to find a formula among Salvadorans to achieve a peace that will guarantee authentic democracy and allow us to recover our sovereignty and independence.

El Salvador, Central America, 31 March 1986

[Signed] FMLN General Command

GUATEMALA

CEREZO ADDRESSES NATION ON RECENT PROTESTS

PA071557 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0402 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Address to the nation by President Vinicio Cerezo on 6 April -- live or recorded]

[Text] Guatemalan friends, this is President Vinicio Cerezo, your president and friend. Today I would like to meditate with you on the meaning of democracy and liberty. I want to review this subject together with all the Guatemalans due to the sad death of a young man following riots that resulted from a demonstration against the high cost of living [words indistinct]. This young man died because some people, who were not correctly using their freedom, provoked confrontations. A rock thrown by who knows who cut short the life of someone who could have been a very useful citizen for Guatemala's historic destiny. This should make us think. When a tragic event such as the loss of the life of a Guatemalan citizen takes place, we must all ask ourselves why it happened and due to what irresponsible attitude it happened.

I have always told you that democracy must be cultivated with our own hands, like a corn plant. You remember that in my inauguration speech I said that democracy emerges from everyone's efforts. One plants a corn seed, it emerges, we protect and tend it for a few months, and if we correctly take care of it, it will bear the fruit that we all want, the corn that feeds all Guatemalans. Democracy is the same. We must protect it because this democratic process is the result of many years of efforts by all the institutions and all Guatemalans.

Many lives have been lost to achieve democracy; many efforts have been made to achieve democracy. We now have it, and we must preserve it. Our democracy has two enemies: one of them is impatience, and the other is the irresponsible use of the freedom derived from this democracy.

We must be careful when we talk about the high cost of living. You must notice that we have given freedom to all business owners to carry out their work with no limitations by the government of the Republic. What has happened in most of the businesses in the countryside? There has been speculation against the people's hunger. Prices have been raised constantly. All Guatemalans are becoming poorer every day. If these persons who are speculating against the people's hunger continue making irresponsible use of their rights then, of course, they will force the government to establish laws to control prices and impose punishment on those persons who are making irresponsible use of their rights.

Likewise, when we demonstrate in the streets to request something, to support the government, to demand something from the government or from any other institution, you have seen the atmosphere of freedom existing in Guatemala today. Almost every day there is a group of persons in front of the National Palace supporting the president, asking something of the president, demanding something of the government, or simply protesting something they believe is incorrect. This atmosphere has changed the lives of the Guatemalan people; now we all want to go out on the streets and demand things and demonstrate to express our point of view. No one persecutes us, no one punishes us. The police go out on the streets and rather make it possible for Guatemalans to make use of their rights and freedoms with responsibility. You have seen in that Retalhuley, in Puerto Barrios, in Guatemala [City] there have been demonstrations and at no time have the police intervened to annoy, to interrupt the legitimate use of this right granted by the Constitution of the Republic to all of us.

However, during these demonstrations there was a group of persons that has not realized that democracy means to exercise rights with responsibility. They came and threw stones in some schools, they came and committed violent acts against some persons, some others defended themselves with violence and caused the unjust death of a youth who wanted to better himself by studying for the benefit of his parents and the Guatemalan people. He taught all of us a great lesson, a lesson for the leaders who caused the protest march, because if they are going to direct a protest march they must lead it responsibly and within the law so that the police will not have to intervene to protect the right to property and the right to life.

Therefore, we must exercise the right to be leaders and to protest with responsibility. What happened? What was the reason for that protest? There are people who are increasing prices, despite the people's hunger [words indistinct]. There are merchants who are irresponsibly exercising their freedom. They are thinking only about their own benefit, and they do not remember that the Guatemalan people have the right to eat and live better. Therefore friends, to protect this democracy that we now have in our hands, we have to exercise our rights with responsibility. Why? Because the government of the Republic, in common agreement with all Guatemalans and in accordance with the power that you entrusted to me, is dutybound to make sure that the law will be enforced. Our task is to permit the development of this democracy in common agreement with everyone because peace is the result of respect for the right of others.

Peace results when you exercise your rights, but bear in mind the freedom of others. I cannot have the right to stone someone because I would be violating his right to maintain his physical safety. Therefore, if someone attacks another person by illegitimately using a right then the government of the Republic must act and control that person who is abusing his rights and his freedom.

Of course, you have the right to freely protest. The police have never gone out on the streets to repress nor will they ever do so. To date we have shown that we firmly want to respect the Guatemalan people's right to demand the fulfillment of their rights and the satisfaction of their demands and needs. But dear friends, we must exercise this right with freedom. As I said, the first enemy of democracy is irresponsibility. There are other enemies of democracy. When you exercise you right to demonstrate, there might be some people among you who do not want to exercise freedom but to provoke a confrontation so that the government will intervene to then charge that the government is against the interests of the people and then to end this democratic effort that we are carrying out. Let us not permit a trap to be set to end democratic freedom. When we demonstrate, let us do so peacefully and within the law. Let us not attack anyone because we would be abusing their right, and then the government would have to intervene to protect that right as it must protect our own.

However, in another sense, you gentlemen who sell products, the merchants, those of you who sell the staples to the population, I beg you not to force the government to intervene in favor of the Guatemalan people, protecting their right to life, their right to eat, their right to satisfy their minimum necessities. Your freedom, the freedom to be involved in commerce -- economic freedom -- is a freedom that can be exercised alongside the Guatemalans' freedom to life and to eat. If you exercise that right by abusing the Guatemalans' right to live, then the government will intervene to control the abuse that you are committing. I am a democratic man but democracy, freedom, or respect for rights must not be confused with any type of weakness because the democracy that I promised will be vigorously exercised. Democracy will be vigorously exercised so that this effort of the Guatemalan people will survive in benefit of all the Guatemalans who have built this democracy and in benefit of the future generations.

Friends, that is why I ask you to have a little patience. We inherited a government that... [changes thought] We inherited a situation that has not satisfied the needs of the Guatemalan people for 30 years. We have only been in office for 2 months. We will implement a plan to satisfy the economic needs of the population. This of course takes time. Just as in growing corn it takes some months for the plant to grow, it takes much more to obtain the fruits that we all desire because we must all cultivate democracy, contributing our responsible efforts, our activity, our work, and respecting the rights of others, and having a little patience. Let us help President Vinicio strengthen this democracy. You are aware of my willingness. I have shown this willingness for the 20 years in which I have served the Guatemalan people. Do not let yourselves be led by those who want to lead you to desperation so that there will be a confrontation between the Guatemalan people and the government, between some Guatemalans and other Guatemalans. Let those who want to exercise their economic rights without regard for the Guatemalan people's hunger not fall into the trap of abuse and greed in an effort to obtain a few cents in a few days because if they do this, the Guatemalan people will protest and make the government use force to make sure that the Guatemalan people's rights are respected.

I do not want them to continue increasing prices. I do not want them to contribute speculating with the people's hunger. I urge you to cooperate with me so that the government will be able to continue enforcing a respect for freedom in a responsible manner. If democracy fails, this is a failure of the government' it is a failure of all Guatemalans.

Therefore, if democracy consolidates itself, it is the result of the work of all Guatemalans. With a little patience, with a little work, with a little cooperation, with a little respect for all the rights of all the Guatemalans, we can consolidate this democracy.

I urge the Guatemalan people to help President Vinicio Cerezo to do things right. To build a house, we need to lay the bricks one on top of the other. To plant a field and obtain a big crop, we must do this little by little, all working together. In order to build a country, all we Guatemalans must work united, but this will take a little longer. We are working for the benefit of the people, Guatemalan friends. Let us be a bit patient. Let us not fall into the trap of those who want to push to confront each other and let us recall that 30 years of disorder and of problems cannot be solved in 2 months of government at the service of the people. Trust me, because together -- you and President Vinicio Cerezo -- the government of the people, for the people, and by the people, with all the Guatemalans will be able to consolidate democracy to meet your needs.

For the sake of the people, for the sake of democracy, let us work together within the law, patiently, exercising in a responsible manner the rights we all have. Thank you very much.

Protest Details

PA072259 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1907 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The protest demonstrations against the high cost of living spread today to four departments of the country with a total shutdown of business establishments.

The police reported that in the city of Escuintla, 68 km south of this capital, municipal markets were closed this morning "to protest the increase in the prices of staples of the family market basket."

The merchants argued that they decided to close their businesses "because one can no longer tolerate the increase in the price of staple products, being affected by the fact that housewives no longer want to buy."

After sales were suspended in markets, bakeries, and butcher shops, approximately 5,000 housewives staged a demonstration without incident. However, in the northeastern Departments of Zacapa and Chiquimula, the protests degenerated into acts of violence, leading the police to step in to maintain vigilance without engaging in repressive action. According to the official police report, in the city of Chiquimula a merchant tried to prevent his business from being looted by shooting at a mob of people who were protesting the high cost of living. After that incident, all businesses were closed "for fear of vandalistic acts," the police authorities added.

Deputy Economy Minister Victor Vicente Moscoso, who was in that city when the incidents broke out, appealed to the merchants to lower the prices of staples.

In Zacapa, more than 5,000 men and women who were protesting an increase in prices that are causing "desperation among the population" tried to burn the municipal marketplace, it was reported by the police who dispatched units to guard the business establishments.

According to reports reaching this capital from those provinces, 165 km northeast from the capital, the inhabitants have asked President Vinicio Cerezo "to investigate the increase of prices and to punish speculators."

The Education Ministry reported today that it learned that the price of beef increased 50 percent over its authorized cost of 3 quetzals (officially on a par with the dollar) and almost all foodstuffs registered 150-percent increases.

TRANSPORTERS TO PARALYZE ACTIVITIES 11 APRIL

PA080337 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0024 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Apr (DPA) -- The National Transportation Association [Asociacion Nacional del Transporte], which groups all the organized transporters in Guatemala, including collective and heavy cargo transportation, decided today at a special meeting to declare a nationwide general strike next Friday in all the transportation fields. The transporters are complaining about the high operational costs stemming from the steady increase in the price of tires, lubricants, spare parts, and other related products. They said that the government has not given attention to their problems. It was reported that the transportation halt, which would severely affect the country's economic activity, is scheduled to begin next Friday if government authorities do not pay attention to the recommendations made by the transporters to resolve the crisis.

ONE REBEL KILLED DURING CLASH WITH ARMY PATROL

PA070340 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 5 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] One insurgent has been killed during an armed clash between a guerrilla group and a military patrol in "Xalbal," Playa Grande municipality, Quiche Department. An official report states that the clash occurred when the rebels group tried to enter rural communities in that region.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT CLOSING OF MILITARY EXERCISES

PA071708 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Apr 86

[By Miriam Mercado]

[Text] During the closing of the "Tosta-86" maneuvers at the Palmerola military base on Saturday, President Jose Azcona Hoyo said that he supports the U.S. military maneuvers that are carried out in Honduras with the participation of the Honduran Army. Here is his speech on Saturday:

[Begin recording] This type of exercise undoubtedly contributes to strengthening the process of professionalization of our Armed Forces, increasing their technical capacity and their fighting spirit.

I have stated that my administration supports and will continue to support the constant improvement of the armed institution and its increasing modernization with the understanding that the improvement of the soldier must be total, involving not just the technical and military aspects, but all aspects of his life so that he can better serve the fatherland in both war and peace.

It is in this context that my government supports this type of exercise in which troops of a friendly country are also participating. This friendship was tested some days ago when troops of a neighboring country entered our territory. For this reason, as president of the Republic and as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, I asked the U.S. Government for military assistance to transfer Honduran troops to this area where the incursion occurred. That aid was granted immediately.

This conflictive situation tested not only the U.S. willingness to provide assistance and cooperation, but it essentially tested the prudence that must never be interpreted as a weakness of our Armed Forces. They acted calmly in handling this delicate situation, showing the country and the people abroad that we have a professional and republican Army at the exclusive service of the national interests and that it is ready to repel any type of foreign intervention in our territory.

We Hondurans were able to peacefully enjoy the religious events and spiritual peace on occasion of the celebration of Holy Week thanks to the fact that our soldiers were on the border in combat position, ready to repel any type of aggression.

The political situation of the Central American region fully justifies these joint military exercises that are carried out by the Honduran and U.S. Armies. Therefore, we must work hard for the preservation of the republican institutions, preparing ourselves in all fields to consolidate the democracy in which all sectors can freely express their ideas because a framework of harmonious discussion and mutual respect constitutes the only to guarantee domestic peace. [end recording]

That was the speech by President Jose Azcona in Palmerola on Saturday in the presence of General Humberto Regalado Hernandez and General John Galvin, chief of the Southern Command, who attended this ceremony to close the "Vicente Tosta-86" military exercises.

Regalado Comments

PA071649 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Report by Miriam Mercado; passages with quotation marks recorded]

[Text] During the ceremony closing the "General Vicente Tosta-86" military maneuvers in the Palmerola military base on Saturday, General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, said that the problem with Nicaragua is more difficult to resolve than the one that Honduras has with El Salvador. He stated this when reporters asked him if he considered the Nicaraguan Government to be a threat. Here is what he said:

[Regalado] "What is clear is that when you analyze the nature of a conflict, you see that there is a very delicate situation in this type of conflict. The conflict we have with El Salvador is a border conflict that can very well be settled by a third party. An ideological conflict is extremely delicate. It is an attempt to impose an ideology on another country. In this sense, I think the Honduran people like the democratic system and we must defend this system."

Reporters also asked the Armed Forces chief if the Honduran Army is ready for war.

[Regalado] "Well I do not think anyone is ready for war. What we are ready for is to defend the country's integrity and sovereignty."

He was asked his opinion of the statement by a senior official of President Azcona's government which was reported in Washington and according to which the Azcona government was pressured to lend itself to the Reagan administration's campaing regarding the request for $20 million to defend itself from the Sandinist invasion of Honduras.

[Regalado] "Well, in truth I would not like to comment on political matters. My work is military, and I do not like to get involved in political matters."

The general was told that on several occasions it has been charged that in the area of Lepaterique, near a military battalion, there is a contra military unit.

[Regalado] "Regarding the matter of the contras, I do not know... [changes thought] I will tell you frankly that I do not like to talk about this matter of the contras anymore. I am tired of the word contras."

Another reporter asked him if he thought that in Honduras there are defenders of the Nicaraguan democracy.

[Regalado] "Perhaps there are defenders of the Nicarguan ideology because it is an international ideology. I think there are such defenders. There are those who just left the country, those who, as you saw, took asylum in an embassy because they were commanders well known by persons who really know that type of...." ["recording cut off at this point]

Commander Daniel Ortega has stated that the Honduran border area, specifically the area of El Paraiso, is a territory over which Honduras no longer exercises sovereignty because it belongs to the contras. Regalado said:

[Regalado] "Well, you were able to see precisely in the latest report that the commander of Task Force 17 sent me about the past 72 hours that in that area of conflict which is said to be a no-man's-land, we have complete control."

You have just heard the remarks of Gen Humberto Regalado Hernandez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces.

COMMUNIQUE DENIES $20 MILLION REQUESTED FROM U.S.

PA071802 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1740 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Press communique issued by the Presidency's Press Secretariat in Tegucigalpa on 7 April -- read by reporter Danilo Antunez]

[Text] It is completely false that President Jose Azcona asked the Reagan administration for $20 million during the Holy Week crisis caused by several incursions by the Sandinist People's Army in Honduran territory.

Neither President Azcona nor the Honduran Government have asked the U.S. Government for monetary aid, as has been speculated in the national and international press.

The aid that is constantly and incorrectly mentioned was limited to a request for the use of air transportation to quickly transfer Honduran troops to the sectors where the EPS had entered due to the inaccessible nature of the invaded region.

Also, the Honduran Government categorically rejects the unfortunate phrase used by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who called the Honduran border area where the Holy Week incidents occurred no-man's-land.

There is not nor can there be a no-man's-land on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border because this border was demarcated and delimited definitely and in perpetuity by a decision of the king of Spain on 23 December 1906, and this decision was ratified by the International Court of Justice in The Hague on 18 November 1960. Consequently, the Honduran Government emphatically rejects the term no-man's-land used by President Ortega for a part of the territory that is legitimately Honduran. It rejects it because it hurts our sovereignty and national integrity.

CALLEJAS VIEWS RECENT CONFLICT WITH NICARAGUA

PA070214 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Interview with Rafael Leonardo Callejas, president of the Central Committee of the National Party, by Trino Murillo; place and date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Murillo] What is the National Party's position regarding the border problem with Nicaragua? Remember that it is a serious problem with serious repercussions on our country's politics.

[Callejas] In that regard our position is very clear. The Marxist-Leninist government of the FSLN in Nicaragua is a great threat to the Honduran nation. We have seen this, particularly in the recent incidents. We support the decisions made by the Armed Forces of the Republic, because we cannot permit at any time or in any circumstances violations of our national sovereignty or risks to the lives of Hondurans -- because of an ideological struggle for power in Nicaraguan territory.

It is necessary, however, for our positions to be clear and not self-contradictory to avoid a loss of credibility among the Honduran people regarding the decisions that are made. From information that I have received, I know that the situation on the Honduran border is very tense, and I feel that all of the Honduran people should support the Armed Forces and the government in exercising our country's right to defend itself legitimately in the event of an aggression by any country in the world.

[Murillo] Do you have reliable information to the effect that the problem is truly serious?

[Callejas] Definitely. I trust the sources that have informed me that there was a large-scale deployment of troops by the FSLN, and that those troops, at a particular moment [2-second break in transmission]. It should be clear to the Honduran people that this deserves a public statement over a national network by the top leaders of the Armed Forces explaining the real situation, so that all Hondurans can know that in no way was this a case of manipulation by countries that are our allies. That is not true. The area is definitely dangerous, and I repeat that we must all support the decision to defend the Honduran nation's sovereignty and security.

[Murillo] Why did you say that the Armed Forces should set up a national network to explain this border problem? For what purpose?

[Callejas] I believe that some sectors of the Honduran people are not fully convinced of the situation to which the Republic of Honduras has been and continues to be subjected on the border.

To avoid situations that are not conducive to unity, the public sector -- not necessarily the Armed Forces -- the government, which is responsible for foreign policy decisions, should provide total, open, and realistic information to the Honduran people on the situation that exists on the border, so that once again our people will realize the need for Hondurans to be imbued with the patriotism that is so necessary at this time.

[Murillo] What does your party faction demand from the government concerning the problem with Nicaragua? You said on a radio and television network that many deputies and political leaders from other parties have asked the government to define its foreign policy. You have said that the government, through its Foreign Secretariat, follows a well-defined foreign policy. However, there is lack of credibility with the people, which is dangerous. When a problem is not given the necessary importance, it becomes worse, and the people will gradually become skeptical.

[Callejas] That is right. In that regard, based on what I have heard in the media and from sources where I participate, which include all the political, social, and economic sectors in the country, I believe that there are some doubtful aspects regarding the reality of the border conflict with Nicaragua. Taking into consideration the attacks against Honduran territory, I believe that the Honduran people should be told about these things clearly and openly. It is unwise to try to avoid these problems, as it would only hurt the credibility of the information sources in the country. My opinion in this regard is that the government authorities responsible for making decisions should inform the Honduran people of what has happened and what is happening, and of our national reality. Nothing is lost by keeping the people well-informed. On the contrary, when the people are not well-informed, it is an opportunity for groups pretending to ignore the Nicaraguan risk to take advantage of the situation to create doubts on a matter that is vital for us, which is the defense of our territory.

[Murrillo] It has been said that the United States wants to use us for a possible invasion, as a withdrawal position or rearguard [word indistinct] Nicaraguan Army. In this sense, would Callejas, as a political leader, through his party, support this or maintain our neutrality?

[Callejas] We should not seek, participate, or act in any way that could lead to a conflict between our country and any neighboring country, specifically with Nicaragua. However, it must be clear that we should support our Armed Forces in all its decisions to guarantee respect for our national sovereignty. In this regard, I am aware that there are sectors in our country that are trying to distort the reality. I am convinced of the danger that the Nicaraguan Government represents for the Republic of Honduras at this time. I believe that in this respect, the Honduran people should be united, so that the enemies of our homeland will know that here we are Hondurans first of all, and that we are determined to face any other situation to defend our national territory. It cannot be otherwise, because any other alternative in the long run would bring bloodshed to our territory, which we should not permit.

[Murillo] What other recommendation would you make to President Azcona, the government, and the Armed Forces regarding the border problems that in one way or another are linked to [words indistinct]?

[Callejas] In general, I believe that the majority of the Honduran people are aware of the Nicaraguan problem and that most Hondurans know of the risk that this entails. Therefore, we should not fear that the Honduran people will not act in defense of our country.

It would be a mistake to be misguided by sectors and small international or domestic groups whose intention is to weaken our democratic system. At this moment, our decision must be firm and stable, and surely they will have the support of the majority of the Honduran people.

[Murillo] This conflict poses a very serious problem. It is a foreign policy matter, which is also related to our domestic problems. If our government does not act in the domestic field by resolving the problems in our country simultaneously with the problem of the conflict with Nicaragua, don't you think that the domestic crisis could worsen if the people are not well-informed?

[Callejas] Yes, because there are media sources and groups that do not consider the Nicaraguan Government to be a radical enemy, or that do not believe that Nicaragua would attack our country. I think that this should be made clear, and that, if necessary, the Honduran people should be consulted at a given time. We are not used to plebiscites and referendums here. However, when necessary and important for our country, I see no reason why these procedures cannot be used. The results would certainly define a policy of support for the decisions that our Armed Forces might have to make in this regard.

[Murillo] A plebiscite would benefit the country's political stability, as the people would be well-informed.

[Callejas] Definitely so. In any event, consultation and analysis are necessary. We must be aware of the fact that the deployment of troops in great numbers at our border, with modern military equipment and artillery, obviously represents a risk for our territory.

NICARAGUA

SOUTHERN, NORTHERN BORDERS UNDER CONTROL

PA071829 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1743 GMT 7 Apr 86

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Excerpt] Managua, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Military sources have stated that the Nicaraguan Armed Forces have established "control and security" on the northern and southern borders despite new invasion attempts. Subcommander Bosco Centeno, military chief of the border with Costa Rica, said that "we have reestablished sovereignty along the (southern) region," where ARDE and FDN groups have been operating. Centeno, military commander in Rio San Juan Department, stressed that the Army has border vigilance posts in Machuca, La Penca, and Sarapiqui "guaranteeing the security and control" of the border. The Sandinist subcommander said that the "mercenary bands" preparing themselves in "Costa Rican territory," are going around, and are trying to enter Nicaragua, but they are unsuccessful.

The source noted that the anti-Sandinists have camps in the Pocosol and Pocosolito, in Costa Rican territory, where they are making plans to try and enter Nicaraguan territory. He stressed that Sandinist soliders are standing "face to face" with the rebel forces that are lying in wait in La Noca, on the border. Sandinist troops began the so-called "Sovereignty" military operation to expel ARDE combatants who were under Eden Pastora Gomez (Commander Cero) in May 1985. Subcommander Centeno said that after the defeat of Pastora's forces, almost 1 year ago, only recently have there been attempts by FDN groups, under Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro, to enter the country. According to Centeno, this rebel force is basically made up of Costa Rican "mercenaries" who sustained 105 casualties, both dead and wounded, in a recent effort to try and enter Nicaragua.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA DISCUSSES MILITARY STRUGGLE

PA051932 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1736 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Speech by Defense Minister Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, at Josefa Toledo de Aguerry Institute in Juigalpa, Chontales Department -- live]

[Text] Dear Comrade president of the Republic, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra; brother Sergio Ramirez, vice president of the Republic; brothers of our Cabinet; military authorities; General Staff of our Army and the Interior Ministry; dear special guests at this significant event; dear mothers and relatives of our heroes and martyrs; dear brother soldiers and officers who are participating in this event establishing new units; brother peasants, workers, Chontales residents, and Boaco residents who are also participating in this patriotic event of the EPS.

Today our fatherland receives new units from the EPS. These battalions of Sandinist soldiers show the revolutionary power which is mainly based on the participation of Nicaragua's humble people. Most members of these new units are youths of poor and humble families of Nicaragua's Pacific -- of the various cities in the country's Pacific -- who responded to the patriotic duty of active military service.

This is the case of the General Pedro Altamirano Battalion for Unconventional Warfare [BLI] which will now reinforce the people's armed structure with which we are defeating the mercenaries of the U.S. Administration and defending the revolutionary achievements -- the popular achievements of the Nicaraguan revolution.

This BLI was named after General Pedro Altamirano, and they [the troops] decided to recall the image of Pedro Altamirano, who, at the side of Sandino, helped boldly, daringly, courageously, and decidedly in the defeat the peasants, workers, artisans, and students of Nicaragua back then dealt the Yankee invaders who intervened in our fatherland to impose their imperialist interests.

Pedro Altamirano's machete is the machete that our people are holding firmly to work, to sow the land, and to add to the people's arsenals to face, resolutely, with all the modern and rudimentary weapons, the escalation of the U.S. intervention and the U.S. aggression against our people and our revolution.

The EPS is also delivering to our fatherland and our revolution two light hunters' battalions [battallones de ligeros cazadores] (?which are barely) infantry battalions made up of recruits from the military service in these regions. They are humble comrades, the people's children who are mostly peasants.

When are we strengthening the defense of the fatherland? It must be noted that this entire gigantic effort to strengthen the people's military defense is being made at a moments when the U.S. Administration -- the government of President Reagan -- has taken a new step in the process of intervention, which seeks to destroy the Sandinist revolution and to recover for the exploiters and large landowners of the past the fatherland which, on 19 July 1979, our people snatched away precisely from the imperialists who are now trying to impose exploitation, oppression, backwardness, and the domination of the rich, the treacherous bourgeoisie, the traditional oligarchy, and the Yankee imperialist interests on our country.

This interventionist escalation that our revolutionary government has been denouncing in recent days was clearly evident by the situation that arose along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border -- the Nicaraguan-Honduran border territories -- in which the EPS troops -- whose efforts, courage, and skill in combat are being recognized today -- dealt blows to the Reagan mercenaries.

Let us wait for the comrades to move closer in an orderly fashion.

We were saying that this interventionist escalation of the U.S. Administration became evident by the situation that arose with the incidents that have been occurring on Nicaragua's northern border.

In the Central American region, particularly in Honduras, in the past few years, the United States, through its military presence, has been systematically disrespecting the sovereignty of the brother country.

In these past few years of aggression against Nicaragua, more than 80,000 U.S. soldiers and officers have gone through Honduras, becoming familiar with the area and preparing all kinds of conditions for attacking Nicaragua militarily and directly with their forces.

The United States thought, in vain, that with the Somozist mercenaries and Pastora's traitors they would be able to overthrow the Sandinist revolution within a short time. The U.S. Administration thought, in vain, that with the Somozist mercenaries, operating from Honduras and Costa Rica, and with its internal spokesmen of the reaction, the right wing, the treacherous bourgeoisie, the turncoat LA PRENSA, and the corrupt clergy, it would be able to change the political and military correlation of Nicaragua and that, with that mercenary branch, recover power for the exploiters.

But what happened? In particular, what happened in recent months? The Nicaraguan revolution has shown in its daily activities and in the fulfillment of its social and economic programs -- despite the difficulties and the crisis that is afflicting our nations, and that is also afflicting and hitting Nicaragua -- that it moves on firmly and that it keeps advancing. Despite the brutal aggression of U.S. imperialism, the working people of Nicaragua have shown that in hand with their sacrifice in work and combat, they have also earned the right to rest, to have recreation, to enjoy their Holy Week holiday, and to practice their sports. This is another advance and achievement of the revolution.

The U.S. Administration, which had hoped that by late 1985 and early 1986 Nicaragua would be a confused country and the people would be desperate and destabilized... [changes thought] Reagan, who had hoped to find our people on their knees asking the North Americans for forgiveness and accepting their shameful conditions in exchange for an end to their unjust war, what is he finding now?

He is finding a people more determined than ever. He is finding a worker, a peasant, a student, a teacher, a professional, a priest, a mother, a child, a youth, and an old man who are more patriotic than in the past. They are more determined than in the past to defend the popular interests of this Sandinist revolution. He is finding a people who are crying over their heroes and martyrs, but who are also fighting for the happiness of our children in the future. He is also finding a people who laugh and sing. This is the people the U.S. Administration is finding.

It is not only finding a people with a great morale. It is not only finding the Nicaraguan people with great awareness.

It is not only finding the Nicaraguan people with great courage. It is also finding the Nicaraguan people armed and organized within the EPS, the Patriotic Military Service, and the Sandinist People's Militias. It is finding a revolution that is better organized and armed than in the past. It is finding a people with better weapons than those that Gen Pedro Altamirano and Sandino had for facing and defeating the U.S. aggression.

We are now more convinced than in the past that we will not only be capable of continuing the strategic defeat of the mercenaries, but that we will even be capable of rejecting any interventionist escalation that Reagan dares launch against our people. We will confront it, bog it down, overcome it, and defeat it. [applause]

The latest operations of our Army in the Honduran-Nicaraguan border territories have shown the coming of age, the institutional strength, and the military machine of the people, which is capable of carrying out any mission, anywhere, any place that the leadership of this revolution, the National Directorate and the revolutionary government, orders.

The operations of our army against the mercenary bases, against their training centers, against their camps, their redoubts, their central bases of operations to launch the criminal war that is being directed by the United States, all of those operations have shown our people's strength, the skills of our Army, the courage of our soldiers, and have also shown the cowardice of the mercenaries and their evident defeat, their gradual defeat, and has accelerated that process of total defeat with which these battalions, with these arms, with these machetes -- which are the machetes of the entire people -- we will continue fighting against the mercenary forces of Mr Reagan.

After this event, these men, these brothers, these soldiers are going to directly confront the Jorge Salazar Command, the mercenary forces of the Jorge Salazar Command, which operates north of Boaco and Chontales. They will thus join the military forces we are launching against those forces that the U.S. Administration is trying to save. We know that you brothers, the same as the troops that recently dealt severe blows to Reagan's mercenaries, will also be able to deeply hit with your fists, your rifles, and your machetes those sons of Reagan. [applause, indistinct chanting]

In the face of Reagan's sons, here are Sandino sons, the sons of General Pedro Altamirano, the sons of Rigoberto Cruz, the sons of Oscar Benavides, the sons of Cornelio Silva, the sons of our Sandinist revolutionary fatherland. Mr Reagan, here are Sandino's sons, what is the matter with you? [applause, indistinct chanting] [crowd chants: One single army, one single army, one single army!]

In the next few days, the shameful, indecent, and illegitimate discussion of the U.S. Congress will probably continue on the path that Reagan has already shown it. Nicaragua will not accept in any circumstance nor does it now accept that indecent discussion on the fate of the people of any country in the world, in this case of the people of Nicaragua, which is taking place in the democratic and civilized U.S. society.

Reagan will probably impose his tricks. We will impose his mechanisms, but not to save the contras. Let us be clear on this. The escalation no longer has to do mainly with the contras, with the mercenaries. The mercenaries are a secondary point. It is a question of time before the mercenaries are crushed and broken up. Reagan's plan is not to give oxygen to the mercenaries. Reagan's plan is to replace his war of aggression that has strategically failed with his mercenaries with a direct involvement of the Honduran Army in his plans of aggression against Nicaragua. That is the new situation.

So long as there are no real prospects for decent political negotiations that are acceptable, just, and practical for all, we are on the brink in the next few months of a confrontation of armies that the United States plans to carry out as a means to replace its mercenary forces, which have practically failed in their attempts to overthrow the Sandinist regime.

We -- our revolutionary government, the president of the Republic -- have recently said on different occasions to various politicians of the hemisphere and of the world that our government has been pointing out and denouncing the seriousness of this situation. Thus, it is very clear that the U.S. Administration does not want to accept the peace that all responsible people and governments want. It will therefore continue with the plan that it launched in recent days, in recent weeks, which is to directly involve Honduran blood, Honduran soldiers -- who are also humble, peasant soldiers -- who are victims of that situation that U.S. imperialism -- that is, the U.S. Administration -- is imposing by force upon this brother country. We must point out that in these military operations, our army has not clashed at any time with the Honduran Army. Our Army has not told our troops to invade Honduras, and at no time has our Army led our troops to clash with the Honduran troops.

What we ordered our Army to do and will continue to order our army to do is to deeply hurt the mercenary forces to annihilate and disband them completely. This is what we have ordered and will continue to order our forces to do.

Reagan is talking about $100 million for his project of escalating the intervention. There has been talk that this $100 million will be for what is left of his mercenary forces. Logically, he must still make use of these mercenary forces, which are already beaten, in the large project of aggression which is that of a border war or a total war which he is beginning to unleash against our country.

Why doesn't Reagan -- if he is truly interested in the fate of Honduras and if he is truly interested in the Honduran situation -- and why doesn't the U.S. Government give Honduras hundreds of millions of dollars which that country needs to face its foreign debt and economic crisis? [sentence as heard] Why, instead of giving $100 million to mercenary groups -- the mercenary army that is violating Honduran sovereignty, that is hurting the dignity of the Honduran Army -- doesn't Reagan give those millions to the Honduran Army? Why doesn't he give unconditional support for the Honduran Government and its Army?

We do not oppose the Honduran Army arming itself as much as it wants to and from whatever source it wants to. No one must question either how we arm ourselves, where we get these arms from, and at what level we must arm ourselves as long as there is the threat of a U.S. intervention.

Why, instead of trying to get Honduran blood, Honduran youths involved in this conflict, doesn't Reagan truly help the Honduran people?

He said that he gave $20 million to send helicopters to help the Honduran Army during the Sandinist invasion against Honduras. This is a simple pretext to get the U.S. and Latin American public used to their interventionist presence in those border territories. Consequently it is the United States that is really interfering in Honduras. It is the United States that invaded Honduras with its troops and the mercenary forces, who disrespected Honduran sovereignty and violated its territory. Those who invaded the Honduran society with ailments, corruption, and drugs and who are corrupting Honduran children are the corrupt U.S. Marines, who are bored at their bases and garrisons and seek to satisfy their corrupt appetities in the innocent peasant people, and the children and youths of Honduras.

The true invader of Honduras is the U.S. Administration with its erratic policy. At these difficult moments for the Central American region and when we must become better organized and increasingly armed to continue advancing in the social and economic changes of the revolution, the Sandinist revolution will deliver 300,000 manzanas in the next 3 years to the poor peasants who are now defending the revolution with sweat, sacrifice, blood, rifles, and machetes. The Sandinist revolution this year will deliver more than 80,000 manzanas of land to poor peasants of Chontales and Boaco. The Sandinist revolution has already delivered more than 30,000 manzanas to poor peasants of Boaco to satisfy their basic needs and thus contribute in the overall efforts of the revolution to face the past, poverty, and the aggression.

The Sandinist revolution is facing in this region of Chontales and Boaco the problem of thousands of families displaced by Reagan's criminal policy and thousands of peasants, children, and old peasants who were removed from their land due to the criminal policy of Reagan's children [the counterrevolutionaries].

The Sandinist revolution is currently analyzing the case of more than 1,000 producers of this region whose harvests have been affected. This analysis is being made to consider a possible war moratorium in the cases of those who have truly been affected and who truly have a patriotic attitude of contributing to production.

This peasant community has had to deplore the deaths of more than 200 peasant leaders who worried about the land for peasants in Chontales and Boaco, the little schools for the children of Chontales and Boaco peasants. They were peasant leaders who were concerned with feeding their children and the poor peasants. They were 200 peasant leaders who were killed in a cowardly manner by the criminal policy of state terrorism promoted by the worst terrorist of the current world: Mr. Reagan.

We, these revolutionary people, at this difficult but historic moment and situation, will know how to be firm. We will know how to reaffirm the oath that was read here today to defend these banners and rifles that were delivered and to defend the fatherland, Nicaragua, in the face of the dangers that we are experiencing every day because of the cruel war of aggression which the country is going through.

We hope that at the various international forums, the responsible governments that are concerned about peace in Central America face, in a more direct way, this irrational war policy against Nicaragua and Central America. We hope that they can put a stop to this aggression against Nicaragua. We hope that they can dismantle the bases that the mercenaries still have on border territories and, then, we are sure that peace conditions will be attained at various forums, and negotiations, and in various agreements. In the meantime, brothers, we want to take advantage of this day here in Chontales, in this land of Indian chief Chontal, in this land of Rigoberto Cruz, in this, your land, brother soldiers, in this our land, we want to reaffirm that as long as we don't see peace near, we will continue to brandish Sandino's white and blue flag firmly. We will continue to brandish the red and black flag of Sandinism firmly. We will continue to keep the dignity of Latin America firm. We will continue to keep firm the image of Bolivar, Omar Torrijos, Emiliano Zapata, and Che Guevara. We will continue to keep the dignity of the Latin American peoples firm. Here in Nicaragua we will know how to defend -- just as General Pedro Altamirano did in the past -- the dignity the continent, the dignity of Latin America, and the dignity of the world. [applause]

We are willing, so long as there is no peace, gentlemen officers, soldiers, and U.S. Marines, to continue to nurture ourselves with our main strength: dignity, morale, and patriotism. It is a strength that becomes invulnerable and invincible with our machetes, rifles, cannons, tanks, artillery, and our blood. We will succeed. We are not afraid of Mr. Reagan! We are not afraid of Mr Reagan! [applause] We are not afraid of Mr Reagan! [applause, people chanting: People's power!]

HONDURAN 'COMMUNIQUE' ON BILATERAL RELATIONS CITED

PA071842 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The government of Honduran President Jose Azcona, via an official communique, has denounced the existence of sectors interested in creating a war between Honduras and Nicaragua. The communique also states that Tegucigalpa cannot permit foreigners to conduct relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the three principal U.S. Administration spokesmen could not reply to the firm report by the Honduran Government that an armed conflict with Nicaragua is being forcibly created.

A top Honduran official, who remained anonymous, said that Reagan is taking advantage of his country's military and economic dependence to force it to directly participate in the war against Nicaragua.

Also this week, contingents of U.S. soldiers began to arrive in Honduras to carry out new military maneuvers at the Nicaraguan border. The maneuvers are called "Lempira-86." With these detachments, the total number of U.S. soldiers in Honduras will be 12,000. The "Lempira-86" military operations will begin on 15 April, the same day that the House of Representatives will vote on the $100 million in aid for the counterrevolution.

This coincides with a more disturbing announcement that a special maneuver called "Ocean Adventure," which will involve 20,000 Marines and six Caribbean nations, will also take place.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ASPIN ARRIVES IN MANAGUA

PA031221 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Upon arriving in Managua today, Democrat Les Aspin, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Armed Forces Committee, said: I voted against the $100 million in aid for the counterrevolutionaries, Aspin, who voted last year against the humanitarian aid for the counterrevolutionaries, said that his trip has the purpose of learning the Nicaraguan reality in situ. He also said that he will stay in the country 3 days and that he will meet with important government officials, political parties' representatives, trade union leaders, Catholic Church members, and members of LA PRENSA's board of directors.

The congressman is accompanied by (Robert Layton), a member of the Carnegie [words indistinct], a well-known organization for political studies, (Bernie Arlington), who was a direct adviser to ex-President Carter, and Lieutenant Colonel (Hugh Thompson).

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MEXICO CITY

PA071610 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] On Friday morning the Cuban delegation to the Interparliamentary Union's 75th Conference, which will meet between 7 and 12 April in Mexico City, departed from the Jose Marti Airport in Havana. The Cuban parliamentary delegation is headed by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, vice president of the Cuban National Assembly of the people's Government, and is formed also by Deputies Elia Garcia Patino and Ramon Pez Ferro. The latter will join the delegation after the Latin American Parliament extraordinary meeting in Guatemala, in which he is participating, ends. Shortly before his departure, Severo Aguirre granted a brief interview to this radio station:

[Begin recording] [Aguirre] The first topic we will discuss in depth will be the present peace situation, the growing U.S. arms race, the U.S. refusal to suspend nuclear tests as proposed by the USSR, and we will make decisive efforts to at last rid humanity of the arms race nightmare. This will be the main topic at the meeting, where countries from all over the world will be gathered. The topic is very broad.

[Betancur] Severo, a doubt has suddenly emerged. In addition to being a socialist country we are a Latin American country that has specific problems. Are topics related to the Latin American region on the agenda?

[Aguirre] Yes, there are several points that touch not only on Latin American problems but on Third World problems which will be discussed. There is another problem that will be considered as urgent: the threat of an armed attack on Nicaragua by the United States. I hope the conference will demand a political, negotiated solution, that it will support Contadora and the Nicaraguan Government's legitimate right to determine its way of life and its people's way of life. I will express my opposition to the armed aggression and against any interventionist efforts.

Another problem that will carry weight is the oppressive foreign debt. On two previous occasions the Interparliamentary Union has made statements in regard to this problem, and in a more or less clear manner it has stated the need to find a political solution to the problem. However, the debt continues to increase; the Third World countries' situation is very serious and very deep. Progress has not been made in the search for a solution. The problem will be discussed at the conference. We hope to achieve a consensus. [end recording]

ARKIHIPOV ARRIVES FOR CUBAN-SOVIET COMMISSION

FL071128 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The 16th session of the intergovernmental Cuban-Soviet Commission for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation will begin in Havana today. Ivan Arkhipov has arrived to attend the meeting heading the Soviet delegation. Arkhipov is first deputy chariman of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met the Soviet delegation at the airport. This is the first commission meeting for the present 5-year period and important documents will be signed at the conclusion of the meeting.

EDUCATION, SCIENCE PACT SIGNED WITH YUGOSLAVIA

FL071832 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The document establishing the basis for cooperation in education, science, and culture through 1988 between Cuba and Yugoslavia was signed this morning at the Cuban Foreign Ministery headquarters. The agreement was signed by Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and culture minister, and Aleksandar Petkovic, federal secretary of the Yugoslav Federal Secretariat for Information.

Among other topics, the program includes direct cooperation between institutions of higher education from the two countries as well as their respective academies of science. Also included in the program is the exchange of cultural information between Cuba and Yugoslavia including cooperation in conservation of monuments and reciprocal support of theatrical, literary, and cinematographic activities.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN INDIA

FL071229 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban vice minister of foreign affairs, arrived today in New Delhi, India, on an official 4-day visit. Roa is heading a delegation that will hold conversations with Indian authorities on the international situation and in particular the next ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries movement, which will be held in New Delhi on 16-19 April as a prelude to the heads of state and government summit that will be held in September in Harare, Zimbabwe.

ALMEIDA DELEGATION TO CONGRESS DEPARTS BULGARIA

FL071542 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1417 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the 13th Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Congress, which was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, headed by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, concluded its 6-day visit to that sister country. Politburo member Almeida Bosque and his delegation were accompanied to the airport by BCP Politburo Members Yordan Yotov and Milko Balev as well as Cuban Ambassador to Bulgaria Eustaquio Remedios.

JUSTICE MINISTER MEETS VIETNAMESE COUNTERPART

FL071618 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1421 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Justice Ministers Juan Escalona Reguera of Cuba and Phan Hien of Vietnam began today official conversations on development of bilateral cooperation in the justice area. The delegation, presided over by Escalona Requera, placed a floral wreath yesterday at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi. They were accompanied by Justice Vice Minister Dao Xuan Mien and Aricel Hernandez, head of Cuban affairs.

Afterwards, the visitors toured the Vietnamese Historical Museum and attended a dinner offered in their honor. The Cuban justice minister arrived in Havana on Friday for an official and friendly visit at the first part of a tour he is making of the Indochinese peninsular countries.

U.S. 'INSOLENT INTENTION' LEADS TO 'ERRORS'

PA060152 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] To destroy the Sandinist process and subjugate Central America and the Caribbean is a pulsating obsession in Ronald Reagan's senile mind. To this end, he issues a proliferation of threats, blackmail, and ridiculous statements. The most recent of these was the public charge that extremists from Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil are being trained in Nicaragua where, according to Reagan, there is a terrorist center that is sponsored and financed by -- of course -- the USSR and Cuba.

Such pronouncements, as usual without concrete evidence, were brought before the public in the context of the Yankee president's fierce struggle to obtain $100 million in additional aid for the bands of former Somozist guardsmen who are based in Honduras and his effort to create a climate of hostility toward Nicaragua that would facilitate a direct military intervention by the United States in that country, without any major domestic repercussions.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said that the 14 most important sea lanes of Yankee trade with other countries are located off the Central American and Caribbean coasts. Therefore, from the viewpoint of national security, it is necessary for Washington to have a so-called backyard that is docile and submissive to the dictates of the empire. The U.S. Government also has the insolent intention of returning to the good old days in which no one in the world, let alone in Latin America, could say no to orders that came from the north.

Nevertheless, this ignorance of historical reality leads Reagan to make crass errors. Washington had to make public apologies to Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil for the lie told to the world by the aged President with regard to the alleged training of guerrillas of those three countries in Nicaragua. This not only highlighted Reagan's real nature, but also the refusals of Montevideo, Buenos Aires, and Brasilia to participate in the Yankee diversionist maneuvers with regard to Central America.

The fact is that the winds are no longer blowing into the sails of imperialism. In the imperialists' own territory, important protests are being carried out against interference in Central America, protests like those which recently took place in the cities of Santa Barbara, Boston, Miami, and Seattle. It should be noted that veterans of the U.S. aggression in Vietnam took part in these protests. These veterans obviously do not want to see the U.S. youths of the present burn as they did in a conflict that is designed to satisfy the delusions of power of those who are currently holding the reins in that country.

BARBADOS

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY APPROVES 1986 BUDGET

FL051914 Bridgetown CANA in English 1746 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 5, CANA -- The Barbados House of Assembly last night approved the government's 1986 budget, that envisages total spending of 888.8 million (one Bds;50 cents U.S.) in the fiscal year ending March 31 1987. Passage of the package, presented Wednesday by Prime Minister Bernard St John, came after two days of debate that saw both government and opposition parliamentarians jostling to sell their ideas to the public, amid preparations for general elections.

Wrapping up the debate, broadcast on radio and television, St John forecast the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) would win another five year term in government at the polls, due by September at the latest. Rejecting the alternative national budget proposed by the opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP), he said: I believe that this election will be a lot to do with credibility. I do not believe that the public, having regard to the record of the Democratic Labour Party,...would entrust this country in the hands of the Democratic Labour Party. When they were in power, did they think of the proposals that they have put forward now? he asked.

DLP parliamentarians, outlining proposals they would introduce in government such as greater income tax concessions, one after the other expressed confidence they would win the elections. The DLP, under present leader Errol Barrow, held power here from 1961 to 1976. The budget, which included 40 million dollars in tax and other concessions, plus 15 million dollars in new revenue measures, goes to the Senate (upper house) next week.

FORMAL TRADE TALKS BEGUN WITH TRINIDAD

FL072134 Bridgetown CANA in English 1946 GMT 7 Apr 86

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 7, CANA -- Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago today began their first formal talks for the year on strained trade relations that have resulted in tit for tat protectionism. The industry ministers of the two states met separately before being joined by their advisers for talks on a bilateral trade agreement.

Trinidad and Tobago has signed such a pact with Jamaica and has proposed one with Barbados whose domestic exports to the republic declined by almost 50 per cent last year. Trinidad and Tobago's Senator Wendell Mottley said in an opening statement that his country's import licensing policy had not been specifically directed at Barbados.

Trinidad and Tobago has suffered over the last few years a decline in its economic circumstances. Our trade and import have been declining drastically as a matter of government policy but that decline has been managed across the board and it's been administered in a macro-economic way through fiscal and monetary policies and not directed against any specific country, Mottley said.

Barbados' Louis Tull welcomed Mottley's assurances and said Barbados, which has recently placed some Trinidadian goods on license, had a policy that there should be no policy decision to restrict trade between the two states. Tull is at the head of a 30-member trade mission that will also stage an exhibition of Barbadian goods.

Our talks will today, perhaps, put to rest, I hope, the real and perceived problems facing trade between our two countries, the minister said. A lot has been said over the past two years in relation to trade, he added, and I would be less than honest if I did not say that there has been some concern, at times consternation, among our manufacturers in Barbados about the state of play in trade between themselves and our country. We in Barbados believe very strongly in the spirit and the letter of the agreements laid in Caricom and we believe, within the framework of Caricom arrangements, that the problems that have been identified by manufacturers and business people both in your country and in mine, within this framework, the problems that we have been hearing of, can be resolved. Mottley said that Trinidad and Tobago understood that some trade problems had developed outside of the macro-economic circumstances and stood willing to hear the specific problems at the meeting to work to correct them.

In the visiting delegation are representatatives of the Barbados Manufactuers Association (BMA), the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation, Barbados Central Bank, the Industrial Development Corporation, the Small Business Association, and Industry Ministry officials.

GRENADA

NUTMEG PRICE CONTROL REACHED WITH INDONESIA

FL071223 Bridgetown CANA in English 1621 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 6, CANA -- The Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA) and Indonesian growers, the world's top producers, have agreed on effective market price control for the commodity, GCNA manager Robin Renwick said. Indonesia supplies about 75 per cent of the world nutmeg market and Grenada the remaining 25 per cent.

Renwick, in a CANA interview, said that as a result of the newly-established cooperation between the two countries, he expected the industry to improve over the next five years with the support of better prices. He also said both Grenada and Indonesia had been able recently to dispose of large stockpiles of nutmegs accumulated over the last four years as a result of a depressed market. Nutmegs are a principal foreign exchange earner for Grenada.

Renwick said a joint venture between the GCNA and a Belgian firm to produce nutmeg oil should be off the ground within the next 15 months. Trial distillations in Belgium had been successful, he said, and the European Development Bank had responded favourably to an application for a loan of EC1.6 million dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) for setting up the plant here. We expect financial arrangements will be finalised soon, he said.

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REPORTAGE ON OUTCOME OF RECENT CONTADORA MEETING

Ministers Sign 'Compromise'

PA090220 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2246 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Panama City, 8 Apr (DPA) -- The "Panama Compromise," signed by 12 of the 13 foreign ministers who attended the 3-day summit in Panama City, includes the guidelines leading to the signing of the "Act for Peace and Cooperation in Central America." Nicaragua did not sign the compromise.

The document reads:

1. Warning: The military escalation during the past few weeks and the policy of force and more frequent border incidents in Central America have worsened the regional conflict.

2. Ratification: We ratify the "Carabelleda Message for Peace, Security, and Democracy in Central America, and we endorse the recent "Punta del Este Communique." [quotation marks as received]

3. Support: We support the initative for the creation of the Central American parliament.

4. Act for Peace and Cooperation: This act is the essential basis for peace in Central America. We convoke a meeting in Panama City on 6 June 1986 to sign the act in the presence of the UN secretary general, the OAS general secretary, and the president of the EEC Council of Foreign Ministers.

5. The process of negotiation will begin on 8 April 1986 and will include only the pending aspects: control and reduction of weapons, international military maneuvers, and verification and control.

6. Nonaggression: The Central American foreign ministers declare that their respective governments will not resort to threats or the use of direct or indirect force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, or political independence of any of them.

7. Nonintervention: In order to achieve peace in the region, it is necessary for all the parties involved in the Central American conflict to abstain from supporting unconventional forces or insurrectional movements operating in the region or which try to subvert or destabilize the constitutional order by force or terrorist acts.

8. National Reconciliation: In order to encourage political dialogue in those Central American countries where society is profoundly divided, actions for national reconciliation which permit popular participation with full guarantees in real political-electoral processes based on justice, liberty, pluralism, and democracy should be immediately promoted and continued. To this end, the mechanisms to facilitate the dialogue with opposition groups should be created.

Signed in Panama City on 7 April 1986 by Foreign Ministers: Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre (Brazil), Dante Caputo (Argentina), Enrique Iglesias (Uruguay), Allan Wagner (Peru), Bernardo Sepulveda (Mexico), Augusto Ramirez (Colombia), Simon Alberto Consalvi (Venezuela), Jorge Abadia (Panama), Mario Quinonez (Guatemala), Rodolfo Castillo (El Salvador), Carlos Lopez (Honduras), and Carlos Jose Gutierrez (Costa Rica).

Gutierrez on Commitment

PA081805 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] According to a commitment made in Panama, the peace document will be signed on 6 June by all of the countries involved, even if Nicaragua does not sign it. Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has reported that the foreign ministers of Central America, the Contadora Group, and the Support Group have agreed to this, adding that prior to signing the document the situation will be studied in our country on 8 May, when the foreign ministers will meet on the occasion of President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez's inauguration.

Gutierrez said that despite the results of the Contadora meeting, it still cannot be described as a failure, because definite agreements were made to establish clearly which countries support the Contadora Group initiative and which do not want regional peace. The final negotiations to complete the peace document will resume within 2 months and will continue until 6 June, although it was established that if Nicaragua does not agree to sign the document, the position of the Contadora Group would still be well defined. The aspects that remain to be established in the peace document refer to the control and verification of arms and the number of military troops, which must be included in the document with the consensus of all of the countries.

Nevertheless, Nicaragua rejects these aspects because it believes that so long as there is a possibility and a threat of a U.S. invasion it cannot make this type of commitment. Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that if Nicaragua does not accept the terms of the commitment made in Panama it will be held fully responsible. The Panama commitment calls for the five Central American countries to sign the document of peace and cooperation in Central America, because the diplomatic negotiating process promoted by the Contadora Group is the only viable means to reach a political understanding that will ensure the fulfillment of the established commitments, which constitute the essential bases for peace in the area.

The document also states that the achievement of these objectives depends on the political willingness of the countries involved as well as the decision of the countries that have ties and interests in the region to abstain from carrying out actions that will thwart these efforts.

Group To Discontinue Role

PY081405 Paris AFP in Spanish 1149 GMT 8 Apr 86

[By Roberto Rodriguez]

[Excerpt] Panama, 8 Apr (AFP) -- After 39 months of persistent struggle in the quest for a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis, the Contadora Group has announced that its efforts will be discontinued on 6 June, whether or not the document for peace and cooperation in the area is signed.

The fate of this lengthy and hazardous negotiating process will actually be decided in the next 8 days by the five Central American governments, which have to answer, within this period, whether or not they will attend the meeting on 6 June in Panama to sign the regional peace treaty. This warning was issued by the member countries of the Contadora Group which, backed by the Support Group, announced on 7 April, after 3 days of meeting in this capital, that the time has come for the Central American countries to decide whether or not they want peace.

If the reaction to the deadline is positive, Contadora and the five governments of the area will launch a veritable race against the clock to overcome in 2 months the differences they have not been able to surmount in almost 1 year of bitter and tiresome debates regarding the pacification of the area. The peace and cooperation document came up for discussion in September 1984, and since then it has undergone lengthy and repetitive debates.

ARGENTINA'S ALFONSIN OPENS ALADI MEETING

PY072250 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1512 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin today exhorted Latin American countries to face reality in a different manner and to realize that a market suitable for our needs is something that must be built from scratch and organized with more appropriate systems, in keeping with our real capabilities. Alfonsin, who this morning opened the ALADI meeting in the San Martin Culture House in this capital, qualified the current international economic situation as serious. He said that the post-war economic and financial order, generated by the IMF, the World Bank, and the GATT at an international level and the regional banks and the integration associations at a regional level, was exhausted during the last decade.

He stated that distorted international relations caused an enormous amount of Latin American resources to be transferred to the developed countries and added that the heavy burden of our foreign debt payment must be added to other factors of the international economic development system which practically forbid our development.

Among these factors he mentioned the growing trade protectionism applied by developed countries, the extreme deterioration of exchange rates between raw and industrialized products, the high international interest rates, and the growing unwillingness of the international and regional organizations to grant financial aid. Alfonsin said that it is a paradox that the same developed countries that limit our participation in international trade are the ones that, as creditors, demand that we make greater efforts with our exports to be able to pay our foreign debt. They demand we make efforts to pay and [words indistinct].

He accused the industrialized countries of applying a more severe protectionist policy against the developing countries than that applied among themselves through the lowering of tariffs within the GATT framework. Alfonsin said that while customs fees are liberalized among the developed countries, this is not the case for products that are of direct interest for our countries. As an example the president mentioned the areas of energy, farming, textiles, clothing, shoes, leather, and wool products.

He said that Latin America is in an extremely vulnerable position as a result of these measures, and our capability to influence the policies of the developed countries diminishes while our economic and financial problems worsen. Alfonsin pointed out that since 1982 some measures implemented by Latin American countries have not had any relationship to the measures these same countries maintain with third countries.

I regret that our countries, against their will, have apparently alienated themselves instead of asking each other for help to face the crisis with an attitude of real solidarity. He recalled Argentina's integrationist willingness when in 1964, during the Arturo Illia administration, Argentina signed the Alta Gracia document on Cordoba, which was an important collective effort for agreement.

Alfonsin mentioned that in the last 2 years Argentina has implemented joint actions in the region regarding two of the most important political issues we are facing: the Consensus of Cartagena for the foreign debt, and the Contadora and Support Groups for the Central American conflict.

The president believes that ALADI should prepare joint actions and that in this regard we should try harder to give a preferential character to interregional trade and reciprocal relations among the member-countries. He referred to the institutions and mechanisms created to make Latin American integration possible by adapting the successful models of other regions. However, he said that the real situation is not as clear as our hopes, and the mechanisms we have tried have not so far given us the results that would allow us to say that the integration process is going the way we want it to .

Alfonsin added that Latin America is now organized like a centrifugal force and that every country is directing its efforts, through trade and credits, more toward the outside than toward the region. He said that our regional area should be structured and that the challenge now is to build from scratch by searching for new ways of organization and systems adequate for our real capability.

Alfonsin indicated that Latin American integration is a very big task because it is not simple, but he added it is something that deserves all our efforts and is worth the attempts. Alfonsin said that the Argentine Government believes that only if the countries of the region show clear political willingness will we be able to move toward a process of real integration and that through the renewed impulse of the Latin American democracies we will find the necessary force to create a new style of political, economic, and commercial relations that will allow us to begin now, after 150 years, the second emancipation of Latin America.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COMMENTS ON FALKLANDS

PY072318 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2009 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (DYN) -- The congress of the Socialist International for Latin America and the Caribbean has expressed support for the Argentine claim of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and "concern" over the British military base on the island. Support for the Argentine claim was adopted during the congress recently held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in a final declaration that calls on the British Government "to begin negotiations including the sovereignty issue."

The position of the Socialist International for Latin America and the Caribbean was today emphasized by Radical Senator Antonio Berhongaray, secretary of the Radical Civic Union National Committee and an observer at the meeting. The final declaration also expresses "the concern of the Socialist International over the British military base on the Malvinas Islands" saying that it is a military installation that has become "a destabilizing element for all the Latin American countries in the South Atlantic."

During the meeting Senator Berhongaray gave a report on the Argentine political situation and especially on the Malvinas. He also submitted jointly with the Peruvian delegation a project for struggle against drug trafficking as a regional problem. Upon expressing his satisfaction over the Socialist International position, Berhongaray pointed out that the declaration is very important "considering that many of the parties that make up the Socialist International, such as the British Labor Party of Neil Kinnock, the Spanish Socialist Party of Felipe Gonzalez, the French Socialist Party of Francois Mitterrand, the party of Italian Bettino Craxi, and the Social Democracy of Willy Brandt belong to countries which are members of NATO.

NAVY RATIFIES COMMUNIQUES ON SUBMARINE SIGHTING

PY081559 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2224 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (TELAM) -- The Navy General Staff today reaffirmed the sighting of an unidentified submarine near the city of Mar del Plata and denied a news report released today that suggested that the sighted submarine belongs to the Argentine Navy and was participating in the shooting of a film. The text of the official communique reads as follows: In view of a report released today referring to the aerial sighting of an unidentified submarine in Argentine waters on 26 March, putting in doubt the correct information released by the Navy, the Navy General Staff ratifies its communiques of 26 March and April 1986. These communiques were released in compliance with the norms established to prevent possible information errors. The Argentine Navy submarine that participated in the shooting of the film ended this task and entered the port of Mar del Plata on 25 March, at 1145.

BOLIVIA EXPRESSES INTEREST IN 'PAMPA' FIGHTERS

PY081601 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2055 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (EFE) -- Division General Jorge Eduardo Rodriguez Bravo, commander in chief of the Bolivian Air Force, announced today that the Bolivian Government is interested in purchasing 12 military planes manufactured by an Argentine-Brazilian consortium.

Rodriguez Bravo, who is on an official visit to Argentina, expressed interest in these new planes after visiting the airplane factory in the city of Cordoba, 755 km northwest of Buenos Aires. He is interested in the IA-63 "Pampa" model, a modified version of the "Pucara" used by Argentina in the war over the Malvinas Islands against Great Britain. Gen Rodriguez Bravo observed an exhibition flight of a prototype of the "Pampa."

LAWMAKERS REFUSE MEETING WITH UK MP'S

PY082050 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1729 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Special report]

[Text] Mexico, 8 Apr (TELAM) -- A delegation of Argentine lawmakers participating in a meeting of the Interparliamentary Union that began here yesterday has refused to participate in a get-together held last night by the British delegation, which invited the Latin American representatives. Also, in the room where the sessions are being held, UCR [Radical Civic Union] Balbino Zubiri condemned the arms race and the introduction of nuclear weapons in the South Atlantic by Great Britain during the conflict over the Malvinas Islands. The decision to reject the British invitation was made during a meeting held Sunday evening in the house of Argentine ambassador to Mexico, Facundo Saurez.

The spokesmen for the Argentine congressional group stated that a bilateral meeting with the British delegation was preferable and added that if the other side took the initiative to call such a meeting, UCR Senator Luis Leon would respond. In this way, and in a fashion similar to what happened in previous meetings, the dialogue concerning the Malvinas issue will reportedly take place in private meetings, removed from news coverage.

Otherwise, the Argentine delegation has joined in the tasks of this meeting of world congressmen, which was opened yesterday by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado. In the opening speech, the host head of state stated that the World Union of Congressmen may actively and definitely contribute to stopping the dangerous increase in political and military tensions as well as the serious deterioration of the world economy.

For his part, before representatives from more than 100 countries, Argentine lawmaker Zubiri argued that in order to put an end to the international arms race one must be convinced that a single day of war in the northern hemisphere would be equivalent to a holocaust and the end of this civilization. The Argentine delegation assigned UCR deputies Zubiri and Alfredo Mosso to the group that will draw up a statement on the arms race, Justicialist lawmaker and Blockist Senator Carlos Gomez Centurion to the group involved in international terrorism, UCR lawmaker Leopoldo Moreau and Justicialist Senator Arturo Gimenez Montilla to the group that will discuss the international economic situation, and Senators Luis Leon and Julio Amoedo to the group discussing general matters.

CAPUTO: CONTADORA MEETING 'NOT A SUCCESS'

PY090248 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0041 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (DYN) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo admitted today that the latest Contadora Group meeting, to find a peace alternative in Central America "was not a success," and that despite the diplomatic efforts, "we are not closer to peace in the region".

Upon his return from Panama, Caputo recalled that the Contadora Group set an 8-day deadline for the Central American countries involved in domestic and foreign conflicts to make a decision to sign the Peace and Mutual Nonaggression Agreement. Caputo said that "we expect those countries to demonstrate their goodwill by working out the points that prevented them from accepting the proposals made by the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Groups in Panama."'

Referring to a future meeting, Caputo said that "it will depend on the five Central American countries, and the question is now in their hands." Answering another question along the same line, Caputo said that the Contadora Group and its Support Group "did not accomplish what we would have liked to, and I would have preferred to return knowing that the decision of the Central American countries had been unanimous." He then added: "However, I believe that saying that the Contadora Group no longer has any reason to exist is an exaggeration."

After explaining that the Panama document was not "hard," Caputo mentioned the attitude of the Sandinists who demanded that assistance to the contras be stopped. Caputo said that "now the problem is how to attain peace and added that such a demand does not seem to help to see clearly how peace can be attained." [quotation marks as received] Caputo then said that "we tried at all times to find reasonable and possible solutions to stop the use of force in the region."

Finally, the Argentine foreign minister said that peace in Central America could be secured "if the five countries in conflict decided among themselves to show the world that they have agreed to produce a legal instrument binding them to maintain peace in the region."

SENATORS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, CGT

PY090113 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0015 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (DYN) -- Senate bloc leaders will mediate between the government and the General Confederation of Labor [CGT], it was agreed today at a meeting Senators Oraldo Britos and Luis Brasesco held with CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini. The mediation will be implemented through a meeting with President Alfonsin. Vice President Victor Martinez will ask the president to receive the Senate bloc leaders and the main union leaders.

BRIEFS

COST OF LIVING INCREASES -- (NA-DYN) -- The cost of living rose 4.6 percent last month, the National Institute for Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) announced last night. Wholesale prices rose 1.4 percent and the cost of construction 1.3 percent including 0.2 percent for labour. Inflation at retail and wholesale levels is thus the highest since last July and August respectively. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Apr 86 p 1 PY]

ENVOY TO BRAZIL APPROVED -- The Brazilian Government on 26 March agreed to the designation of Hector Subiza as Argentine ambassador to Brazil. Subiza will replace Rafael Vazquez, who retired at the end of 1985. [Summary] [Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 27 Mar 86 p 5 PY]

24-HOUR STRIKE INCLUDES STUDENTS, MEDIA WORKERS

PY081435 Paris AFP in Spanish 1356 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 8 Apr (AFP) -- It was observed here today that the industrial workers, private employees, bank employees, private schools (state schools have not yet resumed classes), journalists, and university students are fully complying with the Bolivian Labor Confederation's (COB) call for a 24-hour strike. The strike has been called because Victor Paz Estenssoro's government refuses to increase the teachers salaries, which is why the state schools have not been able to resume classes for the past 2 months.

The teachers maintain that it is impossible to live on a salary of $15 per month, which, they say, is not sufficient even to pay the fares from their homes to the schools where they work. Meanwhile, the government has stated that the nation's treasury cannot pay an increase. AFP has also observed that some strikers have blockaded the access roads to El Alto International Airport, delaying international flights. Moreover, local flights have been cancelled because the airport employees are also obeying the COB's order to strike.

None of La Paz' three morning newspapers were published today. The private television channels and most of the country's raido stations are off the air. This is because the media employees have decided to follow the instructions of the Federation of Press Employees of Bolivia (FTPB), which is a member of the COB. The strike's most important event will be the march of workers, university students, and family heads that is scheduled for the next few hours.

Police, Demonstrators Clash

PY082118 Paris AFP in Spanish 1953 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 8 Apr (AFP) -- Groups of demonstrators, workers, students, teachers, and housewives were today harshly repressed by the police during a rally staged to protest the government's educational policy. Security forces used tear gas while fighter planes and helicopters overflew the city in an apparent effort to intimidate the demonstrators.

The rally, which coincided with a 24-hour general strike called by the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), was designed to demand wage increases for teachers and a higher budget for the university. The road to El Alto International Airport was repeatedly blocked by factory workers. This action, according to reliable sources, prompted the deployment of the national police to that area. According to union leaders, observance of the strike stands at 90 percent, with the exception of the public and banking sectors. The government has not yet made a final evaluation of the strike.

Ministers Comment

PY082000 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Information Minister Herman Antelo and Labor Minister Walter Rios Gamboa will provide specific information on the current situation throughout the country, in relation to the stoppage decreed by the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB). The information minister will speak first.

[Begin Antelo recording] With the cooperation of the Interior Ministry we have made an assessment of the current situation in relation to the stoppage decreed by the COB. Summarizing, the results of the evaluation are as follows:

In Santa Cruz activities are practically normal. It is believed that the stoppage is 20-percent effective. In Cochabamba the stoppage is estimated to have a 50-percent following. As far as street movements are concerned, small groups of university students are picketing, but they are being dispersed by the police to permit the free circulation of people.

In Oruro a peaceful march of approximately 800 people took place. In Sucre the situation is absolutely normal. The main report there has to do with the trial against General Garcia Meza. In this regard I can inform you that the trial has been recessed until next Monday.

In the cities of Trinidad and Cobija the situation is absolutely calm, and activities are being carried out normally. In La Paz the citizens have been able to verify that there are some university students picketing downtown, but they are being dispersed by the police to prevent blockades. There has been no response to the march scheduled for 0900 this morning by the COB. As I said, there are only these small groups of university students, moving from place to place and being dispersed by the police.

However, in some higher places of the city, as in El Alto, there have been some underworld elements who are trying to take advantage of the situation, but they have also been controlled by the police. The highway leading to El Alto is absolutely clear, and police are patrolling the area. There are no reports of road blocks, and should there be any such attempts the forces of order will prevent them because the roads are under control. This is all I can tell you, because, as I said, this report has been prepared jointly with the Interior Ministry. The Labor Minister will now give more detailed information on the behavior of the labor sector. [end recording]

[Begin Rios Gamboa recording] I will begin by saying that through Ministerial Resolution 09486, the 24-hour strike declared by the COB has been declared illegal, and legal consequences may result. This is because the provisions of Article 5 of the general labor law has not been fulfilled, thus hampering the normal development of activities throughout the nation. [end recording]

GARCIA MEZA DENIES ACCUSATIONS OF MURDER

PY081509 Paris AFP in Spanish 1349 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 8 Apr (AFP) -- Former de facto President General Luis Garcia Meza (1980-1981) has denied that he perpetrated or masterminded the killing of socialist Congressman Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz or that of eight Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) leaders. The Bolivian Supreme Court of Justice yestereday began the trial of Gen Garcia Meza for these murders. While appearing in court in Sucre, southern Bolivia, answering the suit for damages filed by the National Congress and the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), Gen Garcia Meza yesterday answered questions posed by the prosecuting attorneys and the Supreme Court justices.

In response to everyone's expectations, Gen Garcia Meza stated that he assumed responsibility for the Presidency of the Republic on 17 July [1980], not through a military coup d'etat but as a result of an institutional process evolving within the Armed Forces. Gen Garcia Meza added that he had not yet assumed the position of head of state the day Quiroga Santa Cruz was killed -- 17 July -- and therefore he is not responsible for the events that occurred on that date.

In connection with the shooting of the MIR leaders -- of whom only Gloria Ardaya survived -- Gen Garcia Meza said that he was not in the city of La Paz at that time and that he was informed of the events several hours later.

Political, trade union, and government sources have expressed surprise over Garica Meza's boldness in appearing before the Supreme Court, and it is expected that an official statement will be released soon. Reports datelined Sucre have noted that in view of the signs of protest and repudiation against the former president by students, teachers, workers, and citizens, the authorities have deployed police forces to protect Garcia Meza and his assistants, who are being tried with him. Among these assistants are former Foreign Minister Javier Cerruto, former Planning Minister Oscar Larrain, former Health Minister Lider Sossa, and other high-ranking members of his government. Radio Loyola stated that Gen Garcia Meza entered the Supreme Court building accompanied by several bodyguards.

The Bolivian people were caught by surprise by Garcia Meza's bold action amid the tense situation arising from the confrontations between students and teachers with policemen, the 24-hour COB-sponsored stoppage and road blocks and rumors that the government will impose a state of siege within the next few hours.

FRG'S WARNKE PLEDGES ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

LD052058 Hamburg DPA in German 1942 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 5 Apr (DPA) -- Juergen Warnke, federal minister of economic cooperation, has promised the Bolivian Government Bonn's support in its efforts to overcome its grave economic crisis. Warnke, who ends his 4-day visit to Bolivia on Sunday, said after talks with President Victor Paz Estenssoro and several ministers in La Paz that the efforts at containing inflation by the government, which came into power 8 months ago, had been considerable. Bolivia's inflation rate in 1985 was 8,170 percent, and was thus the highest in the world.

Warnke said he would try to ensure that the IMF would no longer delay the standby credit of $57 million promosed to Bolivia. At the same time he promised new German development credits for Bolivia by the end of this year totalling about DM 50 million. Over the weekend Warnke visited a German development project in the highlands. Further steps on his tour, which took him earlier to Uruguay, Argentina and Chile, will be Honduras and the United States.

BRIEFS

BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR RECEIVED -- Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro received a few hours ago the credentials of the new Brazilian ambassador to Bolivia, Luis Orlando Carone Celio. The new ambassador stated that he will work hard to strengthen the fraternal, commerical, and cultural relations between Bolivia and Brazil. He also announced that a bilateral agreement will be signed on Wednesday, 2 April, to set up a joint commission to study the situation of Bolivian and Brazilian citizens living illegally in both nations. [Excerpt] [La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 86 PY]

DRUG COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH U.S. TERMINATED

PY081851 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] The Brazilian Government has not renewed the cooperation agreement with the United States on the struggle against drug trafficking. The Brazilian authorities do not agree with the U.S. methods, which do not address the prevention and treatment of drug addiction. When the agreement was in effect, Brazilian policemen received weapons, equipment, and instructions to combat the traffickers.

FUNARO REAFFIRMS POSITION OF FOREIGN DEBT

PY062015 Paris AFP in Spanish 2259 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 3 Apr (AFP) -- Speaking to foreign press correspondents, Economy Minister Dilson Funaro said here today that his country shares the position of the Cartagena Consensus toward the foreign debt.

Funaro, who will go to Washington next week to participate in the meeting of the IMF acting committee of governors and of the Group of 24 (8 Latin American, 8 African and 8 Asian countries) within this organization, added that each country is responsible for its own foreign debt negotiations. He went on to say this position is shared by all the Latin American countries that signed the Cartagena Consensus which, he said, is not a cartel of indebted countries. He emphasized that each country adopts the position most suited to its interests.

Funaro indicated that Brazil is fulfilling its obligations to its international creditors to whom it is paying the interest on its $105-billion foreign debt and has not requested any new loans. He also said that the lowering of interest rates and protectionist barriers in industrialized countries is necessary if indebted countries are to be able to fulfill their foreign debt commitments.

According to the Brazilian finance minister, the international financial crisis was caused by the creditors, not the debtors, because the flow of capital was interrupted and interest rates were increased. In his opinion nothing has been done to overcome the crisis. He added that in the talks he held with the creditors, they commented on the need to manage the crisis, not resolve it. In response to a question, Funaro said that Brazil will not sign any letter of intent with the IMF unless it can fulfill it. He recalled that the previous government had set targets that it was unable to fulfill regarding its commitments.

The minister also said that during his upcoming trip to Washington he is not going to renegotiate Brazil's foreign debt and indicated that his will be done in 1987. First we are going to stabilize the plan of economic reforms that we are now implementing, Funaro said.

Regarding Brazil's debt to countries belonging to the Paris Club (made up of 16 Western countries) amounting to some $2.9 billion in commitments that fell due in 1985 and those that will fall due in 1986, Funaro said that two of his advisers will travel to Paris after participating in the IMF meetings in Washington.

JAPAN, SWEDEN CONSIDER ROCKET LAUNCHER DEAL

PY051259 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Apr 86 p 20

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos -- A conglomerate of Japanese industries headed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, a giant in the Japanese heavy industry sector, and the Bofors company of Sweden are negotiating directly with Avibras [Brazilian Aerospace Industry] for authorization to manufacture under license the Astros II multirocket launcher. This rocket launcher was invented by Brazilian military researchers and engineers. It is manufactured with some technology provided by Contraves of Switzerland. According to military sources, Brazil is interested in the deal. It could mean a minimum income of $400 million for Avibras, which is located in Sao Jose dos Campos, 90 km outside Sao Paulo. According to the first understanding that has been reached, Japan will manufacture the Astros II only for the use of its own Defense Forces, because under a treaty that was signed after World War II with the allied nations Japan cannot arm itself with offensive weapons.

GOVERNMENT FREEZES COMMERCIAL DOLLAR DEPOSITS

PY090041 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2313 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Brasilia, 8 Apr (EFE) -- The Central Bank froze the withdrawal of dollar deposits by enterprises to avoid "a drain" of monetary reserves, it was officially reported today. The decision was made after confirming that private and state-owned enterprises have withdrawn a total of $436 million -- a level regarded as risky for financial stability -- since the government imposed its economic stabilization program a month ago. According to the official statement, the measure is also designed to discourage new foreign loans by Brazilian enterprises, which could try to take advantage of the drop in interest rates to obtain new loans. Brazilian monetary reserves currently stand at approximately $8 billion.

The Central Bank today stated that the enterprises do not have to maintain their own reserves because the government's economic stabilization program guarantees the U.S. dollar exchange rate. The official U.S. dollar exchange rate since 1 March as been 13.80 cruzados, but the dollar is worth 18 cruzados on the black market. The Brazilian Government has taken drastic economic measures to remove the threat of hyperinflation, which was threatening to reach 500 percent by the end of this year, and to guarantee the 5 percent growth goal set for the Brazilian economy in 1986.

DEL VALLE DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S.

'Full and Smooth' Ties

PY090311 Paris AFP in Spanish 0214 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 8 Apr (AFP) -- Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today said that the U.S. Government has changed its attitude toward Chile, although the substantial parts of the diplomatic relations are full and smooth. Del Valle said that there had been a change in attitude on the part of the U.S. Government which this year voted in favor of the report made by Fernando Volio on human rights in Chile in comparison to previous years when the U.S. Government abstained, therefore the change in attitude cannot be denied.

However, on 7 April U.S. Ambassador to Chile Harry Barnes said that the general guidelines of the U.S. policies have not changed. He said that the essential elements of the U.S. policies toward Chile such as the importance the U.S. Government gives to democracy and respect for human rights have not changed. Richard Shifter, who in Geneva led the resolution condemning Chile, recently said in New York that the resolution sponsored by the U.S. Government does not represent a change in U.S. policies. In the meantime it was recalled in Santiago that 3 weeks ago Donald Regan, the White House chief of staff, said that his country is not for the time being seeking to overthrow Augusto Pinochet because there are other means to lead to Chile toward a more democratic way of life.

Shuttle Mission, Reagan Letter

PY090054 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Chile plans to send lab equipment on the next flight of the U.S. space shuttle. This information was released by Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, who explained that this is the result of the agreement signed between Chile and the United States regarding the enlargement of the airfield on Easter Island.

During his conversation with the press, Minister del Valle referred to the letter sent by the U.S. President to President Pinochet, saying that the government will answer the letter at the appropriate time. He added that the content of the letter is known only to President Pinochet.

[Begin Del Valle recording] [Words indistinct] no one knows the text of the letter, the letter has not been released. The information published by the press has nothing to do with the letter, nothing to do with the text of the letter. It is a private letter which the president will answer at the appropriate time. [end recording]

In conclusion Jaime del Valle said that the people who commented on the letter never had access to it, therefore the comments are false.

BOLIVIAN ENVOY ARRIVES, DISCUSSES RELATIONS

PY041406 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The new Bolivian consul general to Chile has indicated that the two countries have started a stage of rapprochement and cooperation. The Bolivian diplomat, Jorge Siles Salinas, made this statement at the Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport just after his arrival in our country.

Siles is accompanied by his wife, who is the sister of Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, and his youngest daughter.

[Begin Siles recording] I am here to carry out consular functions, which are to a certain point unique because for a period of time we had no consul general in the Chilean capital. We are now at a new stage of greater mutual cooperation and rapprochement between two countries that had turned their backs on each other. I believe that we must work for a constant rapprochement in order to overcome this situation, which cannot continue if the two countries belong to the same historical community, and this is the community of the Latin American nations. [end recording]

The new Bolivian consul general said that for the time being he has no schedule for a formal meeting with Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle. Siles stated that this coming weekend will be dedicated to his family, explaining that his three elder children are studying in Chilean universities.

CARABINEROS DISPERSE SQUATTERS IN SANTIAGO

PY070204 Paris AFP in Spanish 1710 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 6 Apr (AFP) -- Using tear gas, Carabineros personnel today dispersed hundreds of squatters who were occupying lots in Santiago, wounding 15 people with buckshot and arresting more than a dozen people, the Metropolitan Coordinating Board of Shantytowns has reported. The Coordinating Board reported that several children and women had symptoms from the tear gas used by the large group of policemen who converged on the area located between Lo Martinez and San Francisco, San Bernardo district. Commander Hugo Bustamante, chief of the Southern Carabineros Prefecture, has noted that the police had acted persuasively and that there had been no confrontation because the people dispersed when the police arrived.

According to witnesses, however, one person was wounded with buckshot and the police acted with unnecessary violence. They added that policemen used various types of repressive instruments to move 500 squatters who were occupying a vacant lot of the University of Chile with their meager belongings. Flying at low altitude, a helicopter was patrolling the area.

The lot the squatters attempted to occupy is located near the Silva Henriquez, Cardenal Fresno, and Santa Elena shantytowns, where the unsuccessful squatters retreated to escape from the police and where they received the support of the residents. Carabineros sources have reported that only 200 people were involved in the occupation attempt.

Pablo Urzua, a spokesman for the Coordinating Board, has said that nearly 300 homeless families converged on the area early on 6 April to demand that their housing problem be promptly solved by the authorities. Gonzalo Taborga, a leader of the Chilean Human Rights Commission, has called on doctors residing in Santiago to treat those injured during the nearly 3-hour incident, among whom were children and women.

According to official figures, the housing deficit in Chile stands at 700,000 houses.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON 6 JUNE CONTADORA DEADLINE

PA081433 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1223 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Report by Juan Carlos Martinez from the Presidency of the Republic]

[Excerpt] Upon his arrival at the presidential mansion, Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo highlighted the contents of the Panama document, which was discussed over the weekend on Panama's Contadora Island as an attempt to bring peace to the tumultuous Central American region. Here is Foreign Minister Ramirez:

[Begin recording] It must be understood as a desire to end the process of negotiation of the peace doucment. We have worked for the past 3 and 1/2 years on an important. well-rounded legal doucment which introduces deep innovations in international law. It is therefore only natural that being on the threshold of the signing of this document the process of negotiation be closed. We maintain that at this time it is necessary that the Central American countries show goodwill to reach an agreement on the doucment. Contadora cannot continue working for an indefinite period of time. It has mediated in the peace process, but in order to work it needs goodwill on the part of the parties involved.

In Panama we discussed this for 3 days. Twelve countries agreed on a document that was given the name the Agreement of Panama. Nicaragua, however, chose to reject the agreement, claiming that it cannot make a commitment at this time due to the threat it faces on the part of the U.S. Government.

We believe that a decision must be reached regarding the peace document, and that therefore, the negotiation process must end within the next several days. We have asked the Central American countries to confirm within the next 8 days whether they want to close the negotiations, and therefore whether they agree to the signing of those agreements on 6 June in Panama. [end recording]

ANTIDRUG MEETING WITH DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BEGINS

PA041309 Paris AFP in Spanish 2307 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 3 Apr (AFP) -- A joint Colombia-Dominican meeting to coordinate the struggle against drug traffic began today in this Colombia port. Nazly Lozano, Colombian deputy justice minister, the deputy health minister, and police, customs, and Foreign Minsitry officials are participating in the discussion.

The Dominican Republic is represented by Deputy Attorney General Francisco Cadena, General Jose Nunez, deputy chief of police, and delegates from several government agencies. It is worth mentioning that similar forums with other area countries have already been held in an effort to reach a consensus to tackle this problem more successfully and to step up the drive against the use of drugs.

CREATION OF GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY DISMISSED

PA082207 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] The communications minister has dismissed the creation of a government-operated news agency in Valle del Cauca Department as the result of the various reports regarding the public order situation in this area.

Minister Nohemi Sanin Posada told Radio Sutatenza that misinformation [tremendismo informativo] occurs in this department. He has asked Valle del Cauca journalists to consult the sources of their reports prior to disseminating them. The appeal was made especially to the radio stations.

[Begin recording] [Sanin] (?The government) has never wanted to have a news agency of its own. Apparently, this has made it easier for the Valle del Cauca journalists to disseminate distorted reports. The journalists should consult their sources 24 hours, day and night, on any and all reports about the public order situation. It is a great responsibility to report acts of terrorism and public disorder [words indistinct]. We are going to (?control) the journalists' work and, above all, demand greater responsibility [words indistinct] in this direction from radio stations.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Sanin] Among others, but only in Valle del Cauca Department. This occurs in this department only, but spreads to the entire country because communications take place on a nationwide level. I take this opportunity to ask all of you to confirm reports because, as you have said [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Minister Sanin Posada has dismissed reports of the creation of a government-operated news agency in Valle del Cauca Department to handle information on the public order situation which is, as is well known, a delicate matter in this area of the country.

SOLDIERS FIND 30 BODIES OF TORTURED REBELS

PA052323 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota -- More than 30 bodies of guerrillas were found in the rural area of Toribio municipality, Cauca Department, by Rifle Battalion soldiers. The guerrillas were members of the Ricardo Franco subversive movement headed by Javier Delgado. The guerrillas were killed through a framework of an internal struggle within the organization.

In December, in Tacueyo, Cauca Department, 28 common graves that held 138 bodies were found. These people were killed because the leader of the seditious group wanted to protect the purity of this subversive movement.

Cauca residents have described the cruel killings of the 30 guerrillas whose bodies were found in 3 graves in the jungle areas of Toribio municipality as an act of madness. Rifle Battalion soldiers found the brutally tortured bodies. The soldiers said that what they saw was inhuman and Dantesque.

These 30 bodies are added to the 138 bodies found recently near the town of Tacueyo. According to the leader of the Ricardo Franco Front, these people were killed because they were soldiers who had infiltrated the guerrilla movement.

BRIEFS

NEW ENVOY TO SPAIN -- Pedro Gomez Valderrama, the new Colombian ambassador to Spain, will travel to Madrid on Thursday. He will present his credentials to King Juan Carlos de Borbon on 10 April. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 3 PA]

OPPOSITION LEADERS CRITICIZE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

PY041830 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 2 Apr 86 p 13

[Text] Commenting on the presidential message, Waldino Ramon Lovera, president of the Colorado Popular Movement [Mopoco], has stated: "For me, the 1 April presidential message to Congress was the repetition of an old movie; I would say with a single and exclusive actor, the same libretto, and a large number of second-rate actors who applauded unendingly."

"The president cannot face the tangible crisis strongly affecting all social sectors, much less solve it. Instead he appeals to memories of political episodes which, although in their time were rather conflictive and mournful, belong to the past. The president's shrewdness should tell him that they are no longer remembered, once and for all, because to remember them would radicalize even more the disagreements among Paraguayans; instead, and for the sake of a national reconciliation, they should be forgotten and judged by history.

"The truth is that with the same arguments, unfortunately, the president is trying to justify more than 3 decades of the country's disgrace and decline."

"In my opinion, the most important issues, which really concern the people, are not tackled with realism and patriotism; issues such as the repressive escalation unleashed against the democratic opposition; the social conflicts affecting the landless peasants; the urgent need to find a solution to the serious economic crisis; the venality of public officials; the contraband and drug trafficking; and the moralization of the government structures."

"The people are demanding solutions to the serious problems, and the presidential message gives no answers nor possible signs that they will be treated or resolved. The presidential message does not even mention such serious conflicts. Apparently the president believes that we are living in a paradise, although the real situation is quite different."

"I want to discuss specifically the subject dedicated to the national dialogue and to the church initiative, which has generously opened the path to dialogue. The presidential message has been unfortunate in this respect. It is obvious that the president's intention is to avoid this important matter with phrases that reveal a threatening and even humiliating reference to our church, which is intolerable."

Doctor Fulvio Hugo Celauro [Liberal Party member] has questioned the omission by the president in his speech of subjects such as the illegal purchase, at preferential rates, of foreign currency and contraband. He said that these events have really "hurt" the president, and that they have had the same effect on "everyone, because we have seen with great interest the self-assurance and strong hand with which the president decided to stop that greediness that has been affecting many to the detriment of the country, practically taking away the fruit of the Paraguayan effort for the benefit of a few powerful."

He added: "With this he has gained the appreciation of many, but obviously, at the government and party level, this has also caused some rough edges, the indifference of some Colorado party members, some of whom are powerful because although I do not say that all Colorados participate in a situation like this, I do say that many smugglers and many of those who have acted with impunity ransacking the national treasury, have done so under the protection of government members."

"This has been particularly noticeable because it is the first time I have heard people say so often, and many people say with anger and a certain emphasis, that President Stroessner has been in the government for too many years."

Joaquin Atilio Burgos, president of the Liberal Party, stated that he did not find any difference between the speech delivered by the president of the Republic at the opening of the congressional session and previous speeches. He said: "They all came from the same mold." He also justified his party's decision to attend the ceremony.

"The Liberal Party bloc decided to participate in the ceremony simply because we have always participated and because our presence does not mean support of the president of the Republic or to the government policy."

"The country's economic situation is critical to the point that we are experiencing shortages of many products. This shows that undoubtedly there is an economic error that must be corrected immediately." He thus referred to the president's remarks that "inflation is under control."

OPPOSITION FIGURES TO ATTEND ARGENTINE SEMINAR

PY071545 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2057 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Asuncion, 6 Apr (EFE) -- The top leadership of the opposition to the Paraguayan regime of General Alfredo Stroessner will go to Buenos Aires en masse to participate in a seminar on democracy sponsored by the ruling Radical Civic Union [UCR].

The seminar, organized by the Arturo Illia Foundation and the UCR, will be held in Buenos Aires from 10 to 12 April. Outstanding Latin American democratic leaders will participate.

The following Paraguayan representatives will participate in the seminar: from the Colorado Popular Movement [Mopoco], Waldino Ramon Lovera; the social democrat Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF], Fernando Vera; the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], Miguel Angel Martinez Yaryes; and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], Alfredo Rojas Leon.

These four parties, all illegal except for the PRF, make up the National Accord coalition. They have proposed a broad dialogue with the mediation of the Catholic Church, seeking a democratic solution to Gen Stroessner's regime.

Mopoco, a dissident faction of the Paraguayan Government Colorado Party, will propose in Buenos Aires continental solidarity with the struggle for democracy in Paraguay, a Mopoco spokesman has reported.

FINANCE MINISTRY REPORTS 1985 DEBT FIGURES

PY071147 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 3 Apr 86 p 11

[Text] According to a Finance Ministry report for 1985, the Bank of Brasil, the IDB, and the World Bank are, in that order, Paraguay's main creditors. The three banks account for $346.9, $249.7, and $241.5 million, respectively, of the Paraguayan debt. These figures correspond to the disbursed loans minus the amortization. The report states that the ministries of public works and defense account for 50 percent of the administration's debt.

The ANDE [National Electric Power Administration] and the INC [National Cement Industry] are the most heavily indebted autonomous agencies. The administration's main creditors are the Bank of Brazil and the World Bank, while the main creditors of the autonomous agencies are the Banque Worms, the IDB and the Bank of Brazil.

On 31 December 1985, the administration's (executive, legislative, and judicial branches) accumulated, disbursed debt stood at $995.4 million. However, on the same date, the administration's debt balance stood at $828.4 million, after deduction of the amortizations.

Going by the accumulated, disbursed debt minus the amortization, the ministries of public works and of defense are the administration's most heavily indebted sectors. The Public Works Ministry debt balance stands at $286.7 million, while that of the Defense Ministry stands at $2.4.4 million. Therefore, these two ministries account for 60.5 percent of the administration's foreign debt balance.

According to the Finance Ministry report, the transportation and communications sector has received the largest portion of the credits, because it accounts for $287.2 milmillion, or 34.7 percent of the administration's $828.4 million debt balance. The industrial and agricultural sectors account for $89.3 million (10.7 percent) and $122.5 million (14.8 percent) of the debt balance, respectively.

The administration's main creditors are the Bank of Brazil and the World Bank, which account for $284.4 and $228.7 million, respectively, of its debt.

The ANDE and the INC are the most heavily indebted autonomous agencies. Their foreign debt balance stand at $215.8 and $185 million, respectively, accounting for more than 50 percent of the total debt owed by the autonomous agencies. In the area of these agencies, the energy sector has received the largest portion of the foreign credits. because it accounts for 29.1 percent of the autonomous agencies' total debt. The industrial and transportation, and the communications sectors account for 26.5 percent and 22.5 percent of the total debt, respectively.

The Banque Worms, the IDB, and the Bank of Brazil are the autonomous agencies' main creditors, accounting for 51 percent of their debt, according to the following breakdown: Banque Worms $152.8 million, IDB, $126.2 million; and Bank of Brazil, $98.5 million. According to ECLA, on 31 December 1985 Paraguay's disbursed debt stood at $1.85 billion, revealing a 12-percent growth compared to the balance in 1984.

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS ARGENTINE RELATIONS GOOD

PY071916 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 7 Apr 86 p 11

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar yesterday termed as "normal and good" our relations with Argentina. he condemned any interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, and asserted that "in this regard Paraguay maintains a firm, coinciding, and permanent stance."

The foreign minister made these comments yesterday morning shortly after arriving from Buenos Aires, where on 3 and 4 April he participated in a meeting of the River Plate Basin foreign ministers. Minister Saldivar headed the Paraguayan delegation to the meeting.

Upon his arrival at the International Airport, Saldivar said "the results are very positive for the development of this organization, because during this special meeting we thoroughly analyzed the objectives of the River Plate Basin and we reviewed the progress made so far. We came to the conclusion that we should act with pragmatism, permanently safeguarding the interests of the member countries."

He also said that during the special meeting "they approved the report submitted by the Coordination Committee as well as the Paraguayan proposals regarding the integral development of the Paraguayan Chaco region."

Among the proposals mentioned was the financing of the feasibility study for the construction of a highway in Paraguay from Mariscal Estigarribia via Lagerenza to Palmar de las Islas. This proposal was approved by the foreign ministers. "We also took advantage of this meeting to clearly state our domestic policy and the level of our relations with the countries with which we maintain diplomatic relations and, mainly, our stance regarding interference -- which the Paraguayan people will by no means permit -- by interests that are alien to our tendencies." Saldivar emphatically said that "Paraguayan problems must be solved by Paraguayans."

Minister Saldivar was asked whether the fact that during the meeting, Paraguay had clearly noted its stance of not admitting the interference of alien interests in domestic affairs was promoted by the rumor some time ago that Alfonsin's government had, to a certain degree, interfered in Paraguayan Government affairs. Saldivar answered: "We have a very firm, coinciding, and permanent stance in this regard... Paraguay has been a free and independent country since 1811, and it ratified this fact with the sacrifice made by Marshal Lopez in 1870 [Triple Alliance War] and now, under President Stroessner's government, it has been constant in its domestic and foreign policy."

The foreign minister went on to state that "in my capacity as foreign minister, I have ratified this unwavering stance of Paraguay from every forum, not only at the United Nations and the OAS."

He was also asked whether he and Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo had reviewed Argentina-Paraguayan relations. Saldivar answered that "we reviewed bilateral relations with all the foreign ministers that attended the meeting..."

Regarding Yacyreta [Hydroelectric Dam Project], he said he thought implementation of the project would suffer no more delays. Saldivar mentioned the Yacyreta and Itaipu enterprises as a sign of integration, and also recalled the Friendship Bridge [between Paraguay and Brazil] and the construction of the bridge between Posadas [Argentina] and Encarnacion [Paraguay].

Regarding the exploitation of natural resources, which was discussed during the meeting, Saldivar said that "financial support is needed more than anything." He ended by stating that "any project requires a financial effort and we are now experiencing a time at which the crisis is finally being felt, in which the crisis is real, visible, evident, publicized, and global."

SPOKESMAN CLARIFIES WAGNER COMMENT ON U.S. TIES

PY082340 Paris AFP in Spanish 2229 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 8 Apr (AFP) -- A Peruvian Foreign Ministry spokesman today denied reports that Peru could break off relations with the United States if the U.S. Congress approved a bill granting economic aid to the Nicaraguan anti-Sandinist rebels. The spokesman made the statement to deny local press reports on remarks to this effect attributed to Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon.

According to the spokesman, the confusion stemmed from the fact that Wagner reaffirmed President Garcia's recent statement that Peru would break off relations with any foreign power that invaded Nicaragua. There is a great difference between what President Garcia said and the remarks attributed to Foreign Minister Wagner, the spokesman said.

GOVERNMENT TO SEEK U.S. COMPENSATION FOR DEATHS

PY060023 Paris AFP in Spanish 1758 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 5 Apr (AFP) -- Peruvian Health Minister David Tejada has stated that the Peruvian Government will ask the United States to pay $20 million as compensation because U.S.-donated saline solution bags used to treat dehydration recently killed four Peruvian children and put the lives of millions of Peruvian minors in jeopardy. The minister said last night that the chemical composition of the saline solution (apparently containing too much potassium) given to four children who died 2 weeks ago at the Cayetano Heredia Hospital caused the deaths. The four minors, Diana Vasquez, Carlos Lopez, Alberto Pastrano, and Juana Barreto, aged between 7 months and 1 year, died in the rehydration ward of Cayetano Heredia Hospital just a few hours after being admitted.

The minister mentioned the deaths of only four children, but police reports have indicated that three other children, whose names have not been released, died in the same hospital under similar circumstances. Minister Tejada said that preliminary analysis of three saline solution bags from the batch donated by USAID in 1984 showed that the contents of one of them did not comply with the prescription. The minister explained that this bag contained 280 parts of potassium instead of the 20 parts it should have had. The minister, who looked into the case personally, said that the saline solution bags (hidratas) have been withdrawn from circulation to prevent further casualties.

Tejada emphasized that 2,800,000 saline solution bags produced by the U.S. Matemalsoco Corporation in Spring Valley, New York, have been brought into the country by USAID since April 1984. The minister explained that USAID and the U.S. Embassy in Peru have displayed interest in the case and have sued the company that produces the saline solution bags. After saying that the money sought as compensation will be used to fight infant diarrhea, Tejada indicated that the deaths were accidental, and USAID, whose assistance is very useful for Peru, is not to blame.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

PY051318 Paris AFP in Spanish 2230 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 3 Apr (AFP) -- An international commission of legal experts today recommended that the Peruvian Government reestablish constitutional guarantees and civilian authority in the emergency zones, where troops are fighting the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas, in order to stop human rights violations. It is important that under any circumstances the Armed Forces must remain under the control of the executive branch. This was one of the 40 recommendations that the International Commission for the Investigation of the Human Rights Situation in Peru submitted to President Alan Garcia.

The scope of the extensive report, which was drafted by a commission that is headed by Nobel Peace Prize Winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel, was explained at a press conference today by Jose Martin Pallin (Spain), Charles Burquel (Belgium), and former FRG Deputy Walter Schewenninger. The report does not give figures or disappearances, extra-legal executions or political prisoners during the nearly 6 years of anti-guerrilla fighting, but it does mention that up to June 1985 there were 1,325 missing people. Referring to the missing, a paragraph in the report states that some sources and officials with which the commission worked assured us that that figure should be multiplied by three or four.

Martin Pallin, one of the vice presidents of the commission, also said that the members of the commission had received reports of some 40 or 50 disappearances after Alan Garcia assumed the Presidency of Peru in July 1985, and that they heard rumors -- with no greater details -- about possible actions carried out by extreme rightist groups parallel to the guerrilla actions. He stated, however, that a significant improvement in the human rights situation had been noted since the young Social Democratic leader came to power.

The report mentions the existence of some 1,000 political prisoners in Peruvian jails, but the jurist said that, according to the national attorney's office, the number of cases tried for terrorism by the end of 1985 totaled 1,995. The document also proposes that the paramilitary groups and the encouragement of indigenous forms of security organizations (peasant patrol groups), whose aim is to stop the escalation of violence in Peru, be condemned and declared illegal. The report demands the periodic publication of a prisoners list, the expeditious trial of those charged with terrorism, and that access to the combat areas be granted to the International Red Cross and human rights organizations in order to contribute to the reduction of violence and the consequent abuses and torture.

The Belgian member of the commission, Charles Burquel, said that the report cannot be regarded as intervention in Peruvian domestic affairs. This task was performed by democrats for democrats, he said, voicing his belief that the Peruvian Government has shown a positive attitude regarding the report.

One of the points of the document requests the training of military and police forces to sageguard respect for the instructions and the laws, especially regarding human rights. Another point of the document suggests the redefinition of the objectives and strategies of the antisubversive struggle in real terms so that the current stagnation can be overcome.

Former FRG Deputy Schewenninger said that during his visit to the emergency zone he saw light armored tanks, Mercedes Benz trucks, and G-3 rifles that his country had sold to Peru for the antisubversion struggle.

Schewenninger said that he has requested that the FRG parliament approve a resolution prohibiting the sale of arms to Peru as long as there is proof that human rights are still being violated. He asserted that very little is known in Europe about the dramatic situation in Peru. The reports states that the commission's activities in Peru, which started in early July 1985, will be permanent. It also admits that its members have failed, as some of the Peruvian Government's efforts have, in its attempts to contact the Shining Path to start a dialogue in pursuit of peace. The report acknowledges that the extreme poverty and the backward regions of Peru give rise to subversion and nourish violence.

MUFARECH HEADS MISSION TO ARAB STATES

PY052100 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru Network in Spanish 1340 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Interview with Senator Miguel Angel Mufarech by an unidentified reporter in Lima -- live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Peru has recently resumed official diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia. Speaking about the Arab countries, we would like to remind you that a Peruvian mission will leave for the Middle East the day after tomorrow. The mission is headed by Senator Miguel Angel Mufarech. Let us talk with Senator Mufarech to learn some aspects of the tour.

[Reporter] Good morning, Senator Mufarech.

[Mufarech] Good morning.

[Reporter] Is everything ready for your departure on Sunday?

[Mufarech] Yes, everything is ready. Last night I had the last meeting with the whole mission. President Garcia and most of the cabinet ministers were present at the Palestinian Arab Club, where we had a cordial meeting and exchanged a number of opinions. The president spoke with the whole mission and gave his last directives to the members.

[Reporter] How many delegates will go?

[Mufarech] Nearly 80, including the ministers who will take turns in going, 1 or 2 per week. There are almost 70 businessmen.

[Reporter] Since this has to do with the prospects for an economic improvement for our country, we all have to encourage the efforts that are being made, and we believe that one of them is the search for an opening of new markets. We wish your mission complete success. Thank you again, Mr Senator, for cooperating with us.

STRIKE WORSENS; MINERAL LOSSES AT $1 MILLION/DAY

PY081815 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Relay from Cerro de Pasco by Alejandro Guerrero]

[Excerpts] Centrominperu [Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise], the most important Peruvian mining enterprise, is experiencing a serious crisis. Thousands of workers of the Cerro de Pasco, Cobriza, Casapalca, La Oroya, and another 11 mines have paralyzed operations in their demand for salary increases. The vast strike, organized by the Centrominperu Mineworkers Federation, which started in late February, is becoming increasingly violent.

At first the Labor Ministry approved a 26 inti-increase -- that is, 26,000 soles -- in the workers daily wage, but this was turned down. Then 48 hours ago, the offer was increased by 6,000 soles, but this offer has also been turned down.

In Cerro de Pasco a total of 3,200 workers at the Lourdes mine have abandoned their work. This strike is costing the country $1 million per day in mineral sales. Tons of lead, silver, and copper remain in the wagons of the Cerro de Pasco industrial railroad. The dialogue with the authorities has been severed, and the situation is becoming more tense.

Centromin has been affected by many strikes, but this one is different because the labor union has refused to send in the customary emergency squad to prevent the water-tight filters into the mine from flooding the underground production galleries. While the strike continues, the mine is flooding.

ALVA CASTRO PRAISES ECONOMIC POLICY RESULTS

PY051916 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Luis Alva Castro today stated that the economic deficit in the first quarter of the year was only 0.6 percent, which is a significant achievement that has not been reached in at least the last 10 years. Alva Castro asserted that steady steps are being taken to start the recovery of the economy. Let us listen to his comments:

[Begin recording] Our anti-inflationary policy has achieved very positive results. I can tell all of you that the accumulated inflation in the first quarter is exactly half of what we had in the first quarter of 1985. This is very important for the country. We have succeeded in slowing the inflation rate, which used to be from 11 to 8 percent per month, to only 3 or 4 percent per month on an average. This is important, because by fighting inflation [words indistinct] we are taking firm steps toward the recovery of our economy. [end recording]

DAMAGE ESTIMATED FROM CUSCO EARTHQUAKE

PY071421 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0400 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The situation in Cusco is very critical. According to preliminary estimates, the death toll stands at more than a dozen, the number of injured is over 200, the number of victims at 20,000, and the material damage at over 130 million intis in the housing, education, transport, agriculture, and health sectors.

GOVERNMENT ANALYZES POSSIBLE OIL QUOTA REDUCTION

PA071838 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Today the second summit meeting of economic ministers, members of the Democratic Action Party, Confederation of Venezuelan Workers' leaders, and Petroven directors took place at La Casona, the presidential residence.

The objective of the meeting was to analyze the oil situation and to ratify Venezuela's position of not accepting changes in its production quota. The debate was directed by President Jaime Lusinchi.

For 4 hours the alternatives stated in response to the difficult problem caused by the abrupt drop in prices were studied in detail. A decrease in production, according to Venezuelan technicians, would be damaging to our economy and would cause considerable budget cuts, which would affect important development programs.

At the end of this important meeting, Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti told reporters that a strategy will soon be announced that will particularly contribute to the unification and strengthening of OPEC.

[Begin recording] We will continue meeting because our analysis has not yet ended, and we cannot say at this time what -- within the clear position that we have -- is going to be done to prevent a reduction of our production quota, or to establish ways to complement this position with some other ideas that would be our contribution to the OPEC's unity and strengthening. We are working on this and will continue to do so for several days. [end recording]

Hernandez was pleased with U.S. Vice President George Bush's trip to the Middle East. According to the president of OPEC, this could mean a change in the policy of the United States, which has always pressed for a permanent reduction of prices.

Finally Hernandez reiterated his report that a former energy and mines minister, whom he identified only as the person who has requested his resignation from the OPEC presidency, is mixed up in international intrigues that only not affect Hernandez but do a disservice to the Venezuelan nation and the oil industry in particular.

[Begin recording] In the first place, I repeat, this is unusual. You cease to be minister, and you leave behind official government representations. When I go to an OPEC conference I do not represent the Democratic Action Party, I represent Venezuela, the Venezuelan Government, and the Venezuelan nation. Even if we debate internally, I must have assurances that there are no people present who are known to have positions that differ from that of the government and the national representatives; I must make myself felt as the head of a delegation. I cannot believe that he is acting in favor of the country's interest. [end recording]

This analysis of the international oil market's behavior will continue during the next few hours until a final decision is reached. This final decision will be the position the country adopts vis-a-vis OPEC. Of course, a criterion that reflects national sentiment will be sought.

LUSINCHI, CONSALVI MEET O'NEILL, VIEW ISSUES

PA042019 Paris AFP in Spanish 2352 GMT 3 Apr 86

[By Jorge Calmet Wagner]

[Excerpts] Caracas, 3 Apr (AFP) -- Today President Jaime Lusinchi pointed out that the presence in Venezuela of the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Thomas O'Neill, at the head of a delegation of 14 U.S. congressmen represents the opening of a moment "when solutions of force will not lead to anything."

These statements regarding the Central American conflict were made by Lusinchi shortly after O'Neill was decorated with the Francisco de Miranda Order during a luncheon given in his honor at the Yellow House, the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry.

The Venezuelan president emphasized that these solutions of force "could worsen the disagreements" in this area of conflict.

Making a metaphor of the Central American situation, the social democratic president said: "There is a phenomenon here on the great plains, in the so-called Venezuelan savannahs, where a fire sometimes seems to be out; however, it continues underneath, so that while the flame could be temporarily extinguished, it will flare up again later."

Lusinchi added: "We must pay attention to these points, the deep problems, the social conflicts, the injustice accumulated for centuries in these nations."

Lusinchi emphasized: "The United States -- a country with a remarkable heritage, a deep commitment to ideas, democracy, and inalienable freedom -- has to seek these nations as allies."

Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi, who met with O'Neill before he visited the Congress, pointed out that there are some 300 protectionist bills in the House of Representatives, "which will affect in one way or another the trade of the Latin American countries with the United States." "For Latin American nations to meet their commitments with the International Banks, trade conditions must be wider, more open."

Consalvi warned: "If there are excessive restrictions on international trade, if oil is taxed, for instance, it is obvious that Venezuela will not be able to meet its commitments with its creditors."

Returning to the subject of Contadora and Central America, Consalvi noted his effort in view of the communication difficulties and the limitations on speaking openly in order to avoid meddling in U.S. affairs, and to "express with all clearness" the points of view of Venezuela, Contadora and the Support Group.

Consalvi also noted the nature of the "extremely controversial subject of the U.S. policy " of the $100 million in aid that President Reagan is seeking for the Nicaraguan "contras."

President Lusinchi pointed out to O'Neill and to the 13 U.S. congressmen the "authentic but not subservient" friendship of Venezuela, in order to stress the interplay between "U.S. plurality" and the "Venezuelan plurality" to "act in a civilized way at a moment when a tragedy could occur at any minute."

SYRIAN AIR PASSENGER ARRESTED, FACES QUESTIONING

PY081503 Paris AFP in Spanish 1431 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Apr (AFP) -- Court sources have reported that on 6 April the Justice Ministry arrested Syrian Iyad 'Alawi because he was acting suspiciously. 'Alawi was traveling on a Mexican State Airways (CMA) plane. A CMA plane crashed 9 days ago, causing 166 deaths. 'Alawi was in a sullen mood, visibly nervous, and he tried to run away when he reached the port of Cozumel [as received], located in southeastern Mexico, where he was arrested, according to the sources. The Syrian, who was transferred to this capital today to be questioned, presumably left a bag on the seat of his plane, which was flying the Miami-Cozumel-Mexico City route.

Regarding 'Alawi's arrest, the CMA stressed that the case is now in the hands of the federal authorities. Security has been reinforced at the country's airports since the accident of a Boeing 727 on 31 March in the state of Michoacan, which has been followed by a series of incidents in the air but no more deaths.

DE LA MADRID ADDRESSES IPU OPENING SESSION

PA081951 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Report by Hector Gonzalez Perez and Judith Alamo -- passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] This morning President Miguel de la Madrid opened the 75th meeting of the IPU, stating that lawmakers can contribute to arresting the dangerous upsurge of world tensions.

[De la Madrid] "The social instability that is increasing in many countries must be arrested. There must not be room for further injustice, intolerance, and alienation. The doors to dialogue must not be closed because all of that leads to frustration and violence. Parliaments must promote respect for international law. It is a moral obligation and political imperative to end the systematic violation of international law. This is an unpostponable task because the policy of force is attaining alarming proportions with grave risks to the stability of nations and civilized life."

The president said that parliaments can also contribute to the consolidation of a pluralist association of nations.

[De la Madrid] "Political pluralism is an expression of freedom and democracy. It constitutes an undeniable force for the stability of the world. The IPU is an expression of a pluralist world, tangible proof that the peaceful, constructive confrontation of ideas is possible, as in conciliation in favor of shared goals that far from setting limits, strengthen the best interests of nations."

He added that the world's legislators can have decisive influence to guarantee all of the people's rights to self-determination.

[De la Madrid] "Parliaments can promote the peaceful solution of problems. By definition parliaments at the national level are forums for conciliation and negotiation. At the international level they can also act as natural agents for understanding and for the resolution of disagreements and conflicts in a peaceful way."

President De la Madrid told the 900 delegates from more than 90 nations that today's challenges demand greater creativity and goodwill on the part of peoples and governments, and cited the following example:

[De la Madrid] "The Contadora Group and the Cartagena Group are unequivocal expressions of the quest for original, genuine, and constructive solutions that respond to the legitimate interests of the region's peoples."

Cuba's Aguirre on U.S. Policy

FL072240 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2005 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Severo Aguirre, vice president of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has asserted that the Latin American people will not remain indifferent to U.S.'aggression against Nicaragua and added that U.S. policy on Central America is doomed to fail. After noting that the Reagan administration is trying to provoke an artificial incident between Nicaragua and Honduras, the Cuban official said there is a threat of a direct U.S. intervention against the Sandinist nation.

Interviewed during the 75th IPU conference being held in this capital, he underscored that this meeting will discuss the situation in Central America and will attempt to find solution to U.S. refusal to hold talks with Nicaraguan authorities. He added that this stand coincides with the U.S. supply of military and financial aid to the counterrevolutionary forces that are trying to distabilize the Sandinist government which came to power after Somoza's fall.

On another matter, the ANPP leader asserted that the Third World's foreign debt problem blocks the countries free, sovereign, and independent development and represents a heavy economic burden for those nations. It is not that the countries do not want to pay the debt, it is that they do not have the means to pay it and, at the same time, are investing great amounts of financial and human resources in getting ready for war and building arms, Aguirre said.

The Cuban official favors a reduction of military spending in order to free large financial resources that would help the development of Third World countries. There are 30 million unemployed people and 800 [as received] suffering from hunger, said Aguirre.

GOVERNMENT WILLING TO REDUCE EXPORT OIL SUPPLY

FL080027 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1947 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico is willing to reduce its international market oil supply if the majority of oil-producing countries reach an agreement aimed at reducing the over-supply, which would allow the recovery of international oil prices. This was said by the Chamber of Deputies' Energy Commission, after Jose Luis Alcudia, under secretary of the Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry Secretariat, announced that a Mexican delegation will attend OPEC's next meeting.

Joaquin Contreras Cantu, the commission's secretary, said that Mexican cooperation would consist of the reduction by 200,000 barrels a day its supply of exporting crude oil. This would bring its exports level from 1.5 to an average of 1.3 million barrels a day.

He asserted that the Mexican oil authorities are confident that an agreement will be reached among OPEC members and some independent oil producing countries during OPEC's mid-May meeting in order to reduce part of the oil world supply.

EXILED NICARAGUAN BUSINESSMEN MEET WITH CONEP

PA060219 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Apr 86 p 1A

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] Members of the Association of Nicaraguan Businessmen in Exile have asked for the fraternal support of Panama's National Council of Private Enterprise, CONEP, to express to the nine foreign ministers who will meet with the Contadora Group their desire to urge the Nicaraguan Government to hold a dialogue with the contras, among others.

The CONEP board of directors headed by industrialist Dulcidio Gonzalez expressed their solidarity with the proposal of the Nicaraguan exiled businessmen, and Gonzalez noted the danger that Panama faces if the sociopolitical situation that exists in that sister Central American country continues. The request from the Nicaraguan businessmen was made in a meeting of the CONEP Board of Directors. The Nicaraguan delegation was led by Mr Fuad Farach, who gave details to his Panamanian colleagues about the efforts that they are carrying out from their headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, to combat the communist expansionism that the Sandinist government is carrying out and that threatens the stability of the Central American region.

The visitors added that they have been meeting with various private and political organizations in Panama to request their support for a series of proposals they will make to the Contadora foreign ministers who will meet this weekend in Panama. The requests include proposing that the member-countries of Contadora establish a definite period for concluding Contadora's peace efforts, because it is believed that the delay is strengthening the Nicaraguan regime. Another request is to express support for U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposal for $100 million to support the struggle of the contras.

UNO LEADER SAYS CONEP 'SPONSORS' CONTRAS

PA072215 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 6 Apr 86 pp 1A, 8A

[Article by Reinaldo Labastide]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the statements by a leader of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO) caused great impact when he said that CONEP, directed by Dulcidio Gonzalez, sponsors the contras in their struggle against the Sandinist government in Nicaragua.

The preceding statements were learned of during an improvised news conference by Nicaraguans Fuad Farach (private enterprise), Dr Roberto Guillen (Social Christian Party), Edmundo Chamorro (Conservative Party), and Dr Porfirio Molina (Independent Liberal Party in Exile).

Commenting on the $100-million aid to the contras, Social Christian Party leader Roberto Guillen said: "We believe that it is useful and necessary." However, he added: "If it were denied, this would not stop the Nicaraguan people's struggle against the international communism that has been established in Nicaragua." Guillen said that the aid -- $100 million -- could be held up for some time to give Contadora the opportunity to establish a schedule for the FSLN to respond with facts if it is determined to talk with all the internal and external opposition, because we want peace.

He pointed out: "The Nicaraguan people are tired, exhausted of so much bloodshed, and we do not want the bloodshed to spread throughout Central America."

Dr Molina stated that what exists in Nicaragua is a peasants' insurrection, because there are 22,000 capable combatants. He added that if weapons were available, they could arm some 50,000 men. Dr Molina noted: "The whole world must be aware that President Reagan's aid must be granted, otherwise there would be a genocide in Nicaragua, whose responsibility would fall on all democracies of America."

DELVALLE VIEWS REGION IN NEW YORK ADDRESS

PA041822 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Apr 86 pp A1, A10

[Text] "Panama cannot remain passive in the face of Central America's suffering. On the contrary, we took the initiaitve of negotiating a peaceful solution to the regional conflict," Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle stated during a speech he delivered at New York's Council of Foreign Relations. "The struggle must stop," he stressed, although he expressed a "feeling of frustration because the peace process has taken so long." President Delvalle's address before one of the United States' most exclusive foreign relation forums took place during a luncheon held by the council in the president's honor. It was attended by businessmen, investors, bankers, journalists, and members of the academic community. The president's entourage included Dominador Kaiser Basan, Panamanian ambassador to the United States, and David Samudio, Jr., Panama's ambassador to the OAS.

President Delvalle discussed the meeting of the Contadora and Support Groups with representatives of the Central American countries that will take place in Panama next weekend. During that meeting the area foreign ministers will exchange views and establish strategies leading to the signing of the Contadora peace document to end the conflict.

Although the audience's attention and questions focused mainly on the topic of Central America and Contadora, the Panamanian president also discussed Panama's domestic situation, including the refinancing of its foreign debt and its legislative program. He acknowledged that the recently enacted legislative reforms led to a general strike and vigorous protests. He stated, however, that "as a result of those laws Panama's economic program has significantly strengthened our economy." He indicated that "after weeks of deliberations Panama's economic program received the approval of the World Bank, the IMF, and commercial banks." "That accomplishment by our administration is the result of a responsible fiscal policy that the government has implemented through constitutional procedures."

President Delvalle described himself as a businessman who comes from a family traditionally involved in Panama's political life. However, he added that "in Panama, it is not enough to be a good politician. One must also be a wise administrator and attract competent and highly motivated advisers. We are achieving this," the head of state said.

To improve all Panamanians' living standards, "we must strengthen all of the democratic institutions. This will only be achieved if our economy is healthy and growing sufficiently to provide the levels of employment that lead to greater well-being."

The president of Panama also discussed the Panama Canal. He expressed the hope that the United States and Panama will explore the "good ideas of making the necessary adjustments to the amendments to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties passed by the Senate after the treaties had been approved by Panama, as well as Law 9670.

"This offers the opportunity for a strong and powerful nation to show the world that it can be fair in dealing with a less powerful partner."

Most of the audience's questions focused on the Central American problem and President Reagan's request for aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

The issue became more heated in the United States after the House of Representatives voted down the request for aid that was later approved in the Senate by a narrow margin. For his part, Delvalle said that he was certain the topic would be broached this weekend by the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups and those of Central America. He said he was unable to elaborate on the matter because he had not discussed it with his colleagues. However, he was optimistic as to the results of the upcoming sessions.

The Panamanian leader answered all the questions sincerely, confidently, and straightforwardly, even though many of them touched on sensitive and controversial issues. He said it was his first address before a foreign audience since he assumed the presidency and that he therefore expected and welcomed questions.

Meets Israel's Shimon Peres

PA051540 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle met unexpectedly yesterday in New York with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. At the end of the meeting, the two leaders told the international press that their talks had centered around political and economic analyses of matters of interest to the two countries they represent. Delvalle and Peres also discussed the areas of conflict in the Central American and Middle Eastern regions that affect Panama and Israel. President Delvalle is due to return to our country tonight.

DELVALLE SAYS ISRAEL GAVE COUNTRY ECONOMIC AID

PA072142 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Apr 86 p 1A

[Article by Flor Quintero]

[Excerpt] In exclusive statements to LA PRENSA, after leaving the diplomatic meeting of the Contadora and Support Groups at the Panama Hotel, President Eric Arturo Delvalle disclosed that "the Israeli Government backed the Panamanian Government when we were negotiating with the World Bank by making several deposits to strengthen the economy and give it a better position so Panama could present its economic proposal without allowing any impositions on it."

Delvalle thus explained the nature of the Israeli economic aid to Panama in "difficult moments," as he had announced at a news conference upon his return from New York last week.

However, due to his rapid departure from hotel and the close protection given by his security agents, we could not get more details about the amount and form of payments of this Israeli economic aid.

In addition, LA PRENSA asked Israeli Ambassador Shaul Gariv about the aid. He said that he has no knowledge of the economic aid mentioned by Delvalle and therefore could not "make a direct comment."

COSTA RICA

MONGE CALLS FOR VOTE ON NEUTRALITY BILL

PA072132 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 31 Mar 86 p 3

[Paid advertisement by President Luis Alberto Monge -- uppercase passages published in boldface]

[Text] THE NEUTRALITY BILL MUST BE VOTED ON BECAUSE IT IS IMPERATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC

DECLARATION BY LUIS ALBERTO MONGE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

1. I am very pleased with the favorable opinion on the Neutrality Bill approved by the Legislative Commission in charge of studying this bill submitted by the executive branch on 18 November 1985. This favorable opinion was given, according to the information I have, strictly abiding by parliamentary regulations after their excellencies the deputies listened to arguments pro and con by respectable persons of the country. The bill, signed only by members of the Government Council, will not go to the plenum of the legislature, in accordance with the democratic procedures of the Legislative Assembly.

2. I am aware of the press campaign against the Neutrality Bill. These are arguments that the government of the Republic has repeatedly refuted. They have been endlessly refuted, but still the adversaries of the Neutrality Bill have not given valid reasons for this debate, which has lasted 36 months. Neutrality is consistent with the Constitution, which banned the army as a permanent institution. We defend Western democracy ideologically, politically, and morally, but we are impartial, and we abstain from participating in armed conflicts. Neutrality is in line with the UN Charter, the OAS Charter, and the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty. The country's public security and national defense are strengthened with neutrality, guaranteeing the peace commitment of the state. War and its inhuman consequences will be pushed further from Costa Rica when the Neutrality Bill is approved. Most of the people understand these truths, but a minority insists on its press campaign against neutrality. The debate has been widespread and long and, for this reason, the executive branch decided that it is time to allow their excellencies the deputies to make their corresponding decision.

3. Certain deputies are announcing their opposition to the Neutrality Bill at the plenum of the Legislative Assembly. They have this right, and we must all respect it. However, it is not right that a minority is trying to stop the will of the majority. Delaying tactics and filibustering to prevent the discussion of this bill are contrary to the free democratic game. To change parliamentary mechanisms to delay the voting on neutrality is to violate the principles of democracy. I respectfully ask the deputies of all political parties to allow the Neutrality Bill to go through the normal procedure so that the majority can express their will within the framework of the purest democratic spirit and in accordance with the overwhelming opinion of the Costa Rican people, who favor the policy of peace and neutrality.

San Jose, 25 March 1986

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT DUARTE COMMENTS ON PEACE PROPOSAL

PA081925 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Engineer Jose Napoleon Duarte has described as positive a meeting involving Central American presidents that will take place in Guatemala.

[Begin recording] I made a specific proposal to the world that is supported by four Central American presidents. That proposal basically contains four parts, of which only three are known.

The first part involves a simultaneous dialogue of Central American countries affected by internal conflicts. If Guatemala had a conflict with the guerrillas, I would propose a dialogue between Guatemala and its guerrillas simultaneously with a dialogue in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and any other Central American country with a similar problem.

Why? Because there is no doubt that if there is peace in the five Central American countries, then to the extent that we can reach agreements and influence each other, we could also achieve peace in each of our countries, and in turn, in the region.

My second proposal involves the presidents' meeting in Esquipulas in which I will participate. I will ensure that the topics of democracy, pluralism, liberty, the process by which the peoples can achieve self-determination and the citizens of each nation will respect that principle, will be discussed there.

I believe that extraregional problems can be solved if the region honors its moral, social, and international commitments. In view of this, I believe that if we Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Costa Ricans, and Hondurans assume our own responsibilities, then there would be no reason for foreign forces to meddle in the area.

The third proposal calls for political willingness to sign the Contadora Document now. It calls for a final article to be added to the Contadora Document stating that the verification, control, and the organization of the entire verification of this commitment should be handled by a Central American parliament that will be freely and popularly elected in each of our nations. We would give the Central American parliament a reason to exist; that is, to make the political commitment of signing the Contadora Document feasible. That is my proposal and I think that with these general, national, regional, and international proposals we could tackle all problems from a political standpoint, not from a belligerent position. This would bring peace to Central America. It would also debilitate the meddling of other sectors in internal problems because it would bring tanquillity. [end recording]

BAND OF KIDNAPPERS BROKEN UP, SEVERAL ARRESTED

PA060259 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Farmer Luis Orlando Llovera and former Lieutenant Isidro Lopez Sibrian, who was released in 1983 after being implicated in the murder of two U.S. citizens and the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation president in 1980, are currently under arrest at the National Police, charged with kidnappings.

A communique issued this afternoon by the National Police states that authorities are actively seeking former Lieutenant Carlos Zacapa and farmer Antonio Cornejo Arango, in whose farm located in La Libertad Department weapons and political propaganda were found, as filmed by our cameras last Tuesday.

The text of the official communique added: Other people have been arrested as part of the investigations, and several have been released as soon as their innocence was confirmed. Thus far, 10 people have been freed.

The communique further stated: The investigations led to the discovery of the site where the victims were held captive while the kidnappers tried to obtain the sums they demanded as ransom.

The place, which is known as the deposit, will be shown to the media as soon as the necessary evidence is gathered. The communique added: The names of the victims have been omitted for obvious reasons. We can only report that several kidnapping cases have been resolved as of this date. According to the National Police, those implicated will be turned over to the courts. The police reiterate their steadfast determination to fight crime in our country.

This case, which has shocked the Salvadoran public, began last Monday when farmer Luis Orlando Llovera was arrested at the intersection between La Reforma and the road to Santa Tecla in this capital. A few hours later, a joint operation began with the participation of the security corps. Several homes in the high sectors of San Salvador were searched that same day, including the residences of Llovera himself, his son-in-law, former Lt Isidro Lopez Sibrian, and a merchant by the name of Rivera. The following day, the private residence of Antonio Cornejo in the San Benito neighborhood and his farm located in Lourdes canton, La Libertad Department were searched. As we previously reported, two M-16 rifles, one communications radio, and political propaganda were found at Cornejo's farm. Former Lt Isidro Lopez Sibrian was arrested two nights ago in Santa Tecla.

According to unofficial reports, all those arrested belong to a band of kidnappers who have been operating in our country for many years, whose victims have been mostly wealthy individuals, for whom the band received several million colones as ransom. One of the victims was presumably former Foreign Minister Ortiz Mancilla, who was kidnapped for 15 days in February.

The investigation, which had been kept secret all this time, was made public today when Ramon Erasmo Oporto Tereson, who had been arrested under the same charges and whose case was pending investigation, hung himself this morning at a National Police jail. We have found out that he was the brother-in-law of former Lt Isidro Lopez Sibrian. Oporto Tereson used his own clothes to hang himself. It was also learned that he was the one in charge of keeping an eye on the kidnap victims.

We have also learned that cells used by the kidnappers to hide their victims were found in Antonio Cornejo's farm in La Libertad Department.

Sources close to the investigation stressed that the case has no political overtones, despite the friendship that some of individuals implicated in it had with leaders of a political party.

Duarte Comments on Investigations

PA082118 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] President Duarte yesterday reported that 20 individuals involved in the kidnapping case were arrested. He added that the government and the Armed Forces are determined to fully investigate the case regardless of who is involved.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, according to some reports, [word indistinct] death squads during a raid of farmer (?Guevara's) residence. What can you say about this case in your capacity as commander of the Armed Forces?

[Duarte] I knew you would ask that. The Armed Forces are carrying out professional work through their security corps; this is in keeping with my commitment to eradicate death squads in the country. Approximately 6 months ago, during a meeting that included production institutions such as the National Association of Private Enterprise [ANEP], [words indistinct] the Chamber of Commerce, and the cattlemen, they presented a request related exclusively to the problem of kidnappings.

As a result of that meeting, we established a commission made up of four members of the private sector and four members of the government to study all available evidence to correct situations in which we can apply justice and control death squads.

You might recall that approximately 1 year ago, perhaps a little after taking over, I presented before the Legislative Assembly a proposal calling for the establishment of a special investigative commission on special crimes. There were elements in other parties and deputies who refuse to authorize it. However, finally, after a struggle that lasted months, we approved that commission.

All that was done to begin creating structures; we still need to create some technical-investigative structures. That is why we must resort to foreign help or advisers to help us in certain aspects of investigations, because we do not yet have the internal capabilities in certain areas, especially laboratories.

These prompted the investigation of a number of crimes and kidnappings, especially the last five kidnappings. The police and security corps were tasked with carrying them out. In one of them, the Ferracuti case for example, we not only recovered the ransom money, but the police also captured nine of the kidnappers.

We are currently investigating five kidnappings, and the police have already captured about 20 people. They have some data and evidence. I have much information, but, as you will understand, I cannot reveal it. That is the prerogative of the police. This will ensure a full investigation, I hope that we will have completed the investigation in approximately 10 to 15 days. We will provide full details them. Reporters will be invited to the sites where the kidnap victims were held to give you an idea of the importance of the work being carried out by the national police.

As you understand, I cannot give more details, although I know all of them. However, I think it is logical that I should refrain from revealing them to avoid hampering the investigation. This is the most important investigation currently taking place in the country.

[Reporter] This is a delicate situation; it is said that top-level members of the Armed Forces, including officers commanding troops, are involved in this. Is this true?

[Duarte] I cannot and must not answer your question; this is not the appropriate time. An investigation is under way. I can assure you that at the High Command meeting I decided to carry out a full investigation regardless of who is involved; I can assure you that. I prefer not to answer your question. [end recording]

ARENA on Kidnapping Ring

PA082115 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Today the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] issued a communique regarding the kidnapping ring discovered by the National Police. Regarding the National Police bulletin reporting the arrests and the people involved in the kidnappings, ARENA stated:

1. The defense of the constitutional order is ARENA's basic principle, because only when law, justice, and respect for people prevail can the necessary climate be generated so the all the Salvadoran people may live in peace, progress, and liberty.

2. Regarding to the above-mentioned case, it is imperative to conduct an exhaustive and thorough investigation to unmask and identify all the people involved, regardless of who they are, and to hold them fully responsible for their actions.

3. All those who may be found responsible for committing crimes of any nature should be punished to the full extent of the law so that no crime goes unpunished in the country, and so that justice may prevail as an element guaranteeing the nation's law and order.

Therefore -- the communique added -- ARENA congratulated the national police for their interest in eradicating this social scourge and asked the security forces to continue the investigation of these criminal actions with all due care and diligence. In addition, it urged all political, economic, and social sectors to join this plea to end crime and extortion and support the authorities in this struggle so that law and justice may prevail for the sake of Salvadoran families' tranquillity and security.

UNTS PROPOSES REFERENDUM ON NATIONAL SITUATION

PA061757 Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] San Salvador, 5 Apr (AFP) -- The National Unity of the Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) last night proposed to the government and the guerrillas to hold a referendum "to find out about the people's opinion on the difficult economic, political, and military situation" that the country is experiencing.

The UNTS, which is made up of more than 100 labor-peasant organizations, gave the Napoleon Duarte government 15 days to respond to its proposal, as well as to the other proposals approved by the "National Forum for Survival and Peace," which ended on Saturday night.

The union groups also asked Duarte to renegotiate the foreign debt in terms that are better for the country and proposed that the foreign economic aid be used "to promote economic and social programs and not to continue the war."

In addition, the forum demanded the withdrawal of representatives of the U.S. Institute for Free Unionism, and the Venezuelan Institute for Popular Education (IVEPO) from the country and the elimination of the Culture and Communications Ministry, which were viewed as agencies "that destabilize Salvadoran union movements."

REPORTERS BARRED FROM FMLN PRESS CONFERENCE

PA072157 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] We will now establish contact with Chalatenango Department, with our sister station, Radio Farabundo Marti, which has a report on a press conference held in territory under our control in Chalatenango Department. Go ahead, Radio Farabundo Marti:

[Begin relay] Yes, Radio Venceremos brothers, once again here is Radio Farabundo Marti with more information. This time it is on an important press conference held in Chalatenango Department on 2 April. Salvadoran people, pay attention to this report from Chalatenango. Between 1000 and 1100 on 2 April, a press conference was held for national and international news media. The news media arrived at the area of El Ocotal canton in Dulce Nombre de Maria jurisdiction where they were received by the FMLN leadership in the zone.

The news media represented were THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, the Mexican newspaper JORNADA, and UPI reporters. These international news media representatives were given extensive information. We had to lament the absence of the national news media representatives who were stopped at the Army's repressive checkpoint at the turnoff to El Cobano.

News media representatives going to the press conference who were prevented from carrying out their mission were from Canal Doce Television, Radio Cadena YSU, and Radio Cadena Sonora. The representatives of those news media were taken to the installations of the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso. Their fate is unknown. Until 2 April they were being questioned by Colonel Gilberto Rubio, chief of the 4th Infantry Brigade. These national news media representatives have been prevented from fulfilling their informative mission. This demonstrates the demagoguery of the regime when it says that it permits press freedom and that it is promoting democracy in the country.

Regarding the news media that was present at the press conference, they were given extensive information on the operation the puppet Army is carrying out in Chalatenango Department, specifically in the eastern area. It is directed against the civilian population and seeks to depopulate areas controlled by the FMLN. To achieve this criminal objective, the puppet regime of Napoleon Duarte, through its Army, is using many repressive means, including the seizure and destruction of property, homes, and crops of the civilian population of the area as well as the destruction and burning of the countryside. All of this was denounced at the press conference.

The news media representatives were also told of the number of casualties inflicted on the enemy since March in Chalatenango Department and the successful attacks carried out in the first 2 days of April against Duarte's troops. They were a harsh forewarning of what this month will be like for the puppet troops in Chalatenango Department. These blows were carried out on occasion of the celebration of the anniversary of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, FPL.

In addition, it was also stressed at the press conference that our offensive capability to annihilate the puppet Army continues in effect. This is shown by the high number of casualties suffered by the Duartist troops in the operation in this department. During March, the number of casualties was 234. The foreign journalists were also told of our political willingness to hold a dialogue which contrasts with the Duarte government's warmongering attitude, servile to the U.S. interests.

This has been a report on the important press conference held here in Chalatenango Department. Go ahead, comrades in Morazan. [end relay]

Thank you brothers of Radio Farabundo Marti in Chalatenango.

GUATEMALA

'NEW RIGHT' REBUKES COMMUNISTS' GOALS

PA081839 [Editorial report] Guatemala City EL GRAFICO on 6 April carries on page 6 the text of a statement issued by a "new, clandestine organization," the "New Right," [Nueva Derecha] in reply to a 3 April statement by the Guatemalan Labor Party published in this same newspaper.

Referring to the Labor Party as a "communist party," the New Right indicated that "in a free country like Guatemala neither Marxism nor communism will succeed in forcibly imposing violent means to seize power."

"The people will not forget the names of the soldiers slaughtered in cowardly ambushes; of the policemen murdered with the only purpose of stealing a weapon from them; of the infants who died in hospital incubators as a result of acts of sabotage against electrical power sources," the statement indicates. It adds that "the people en masse reject and condemn all that which the communist party calls democratic revolutionary process."

In its final section, the five-point statement by the New Right concludes that "the majority of the Guatemalan people reject and are willing to fight communism wherever it may be usurping individual rights."

HONDURAS

'CONTRADICTIONS' IN BORDER INCIDENT AFTERMATH

PA081733 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Apr 86

[By Trino Murillo]

[Excerpts] Events corresponding to the incident that took place in our country's border area with Nicaragua are filled with contradictions. Whereas President Jose Simon Azcona Hoyo has said that emergency aid was requested to transfer troops to the border and to purchase war materiel to repel the Sandinist incursion, an official bulletin issued by the Presidency's own information office denied asking for $20 million in aid from the Ronald Reagan government.

We should recall that President Azcona told the people via radio and television network that he had requested aid and that he would do the same thing whenever needed. Where is the Gordian knot? Was a request made for millions in aid? Was a request made without specifying the amount? Does the mistake lie in the figure? We will bring you a broad report on the matter shortly.

An unidentified Honduran official gave a statement to U.S. reporters, stating that Honduras had fallen into a trap set by the United States regarding the news of a Sandinist incursion into our country during Holy Week. According to the reports published by U.S. news media, the top Honduran official, who wished to remain anonymous, said, among other things: Considering that we are allies, the United States could have at least told us ahead of time what it was going to say so that we would not fall into this somewhat ridiculous situation. Some sources pointed to Presidential Designate Jaime Rosenthal Oliva as the top Honduran official who made that statement to U.S. news media. However, Rosenthal personally made the corresponding clarifications and denied having made that statement.

Our reporters have learned that government officials have begun an investigation of the matter to determine if in fact someone made that statement and who it was, or whether the statement was the product of a journalistic invention made under the cover of the trite phrase: a source who wished to remain anonymous, a source who declines to be identified, or some other similar phrase used by reporters of international dispatches or U.S. newspapers. Some U.S. news media have said that Honduras was pressured into accepting the reports on the Sandinist incursion because the United States had already formally announced that the Sandinists had entered Honduran territory. Honduran civilian and military sources have flatly rejected those reports. They have said that our country was never pressured to report on the Sandinist armed action in our territory. The fact remains that a probe is under way. However, it is not known what measures will be taken if it is proven that a top Honduran official had said that Honduras had fallen into a trap set by the United States.

Nevertheless, contradictions abound. Yesterday, for example, an official communique was issued stating that President Azcona did not ask for $20 million in aid from the United States to deal with the Sandinist aggression. In Washington it is being said that Jose Azcona Hoyo sent a letter to Ronald Reagan asking for that aid. In Tegucigalpa it is stated that the aid requested was merely to transport troops to the zones affected by the Sandinist invasion.

The serious contradictions in official reports are giving rise to confusion among the people. Whereas the government reaffirmed that it had asked for aid from the U.S. President, an official communique denied ever asking the Reagan administration for $20 million. Who can we believe when one considers that President Azcona asked for emergency aid from the United States to transport Honduran troops to the border and purchase material to repel the Sandinist attack during the recent Sandinist incursion.

Yesterday's official communique reveals a number of contradictions, confusing the public and showing an institutionalized misinformation campaign and a lack of credibility. In a recent address President Azcona reiterated: Quote. I am prepared for your military support -- referring to the United States -- whenever needed to defend my fatherland. End quote. Although this letter does specify the amount of aid, the fact remains that a request for emergency aid was made. As can be expected, this situation gives rise to a number of speculations among the people, and this puts the seriousness of the Honduran Government in doubt.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR DENIES INTENTION TO ATTACK

PA082002 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Danila Abud Vivas, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras, has asserted that his country is unwilling to attack our country.

[Begin recording] [Abud, in progress] ...take advantage to (?get information) on this matter. Our position has been clear, and President Ortega even told Radio America during an interview that our position will always continue to be to defend ourselves from mercenary attacks at the border but that Nicaragua does not intend to attack Honduras at any time.

[Unidentified reporter] What has been the reaction of the Nicaraguan people to the situation at the border between your country and ours, which you are outlining?

[Abud] Our people are always on the watch and vigilant against any act of aggression and ready to confront any intervention, be it the one being carried out through mercenaries or any larger one by the United States. In this case the Nicaraguan people are clearly convinced that neither the Honduran Government nor the Honduran people are attacking Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan people. Clearly, these are two brotherly nations, and the aggression comes from the northern power.

[Reporter] What has been the reaction to the insistent requests in United States for millions of dollars in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries?

[Abud] [Sentence indistinct].

[Reporter] How have the Nicaraguan people reacted to the U.S. Government's request for millions of dollars of aid for the counterrevolutionaries?

[Abud] In the first place, there has been a complete rejection of this aid, because we feel that it is totally immoral and illegal. In addition, the Nicaraguan people have responded by preparing themselves for the increase in the U.S. aggression that will result from the $100 million, particularly since there is talk that U.S. advisers will be training the contras. This means that attacks will be stepped up in the area, and this evidently increases the danger of a regional war or a direct war by the United States against Nicaragua.

Our people are calm. However, they are firmly ready to defend our homeland if necessary.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Contadora Group in view of this request in the United States, Mr Ambassador?

[Abud] Contadora is meeting at this moment and has been unable to issue a final declaration. I understand that the meeting was suspended at 0100 and that it resumed at 0900 today because there are some discrepancies and [words indistinct] some foreign ministers regarding the tour that some U.S. congressmen have been carrying out through the Contadora member-countries. The Contadora and Support Group governments have firmly and categorically rejected the $100 million, and the most clear example was that of Peruvian Foreign Minister Alan Wagner, who said that Contadora and the Support Group should break relations with the United States if the $100 million is approved, as this would be a completely illegal and immoral action.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Dear listeners, you have listened to statements by Nicaraguan Ambassador Danilo Abud Vivas, who said that his country is not willing to attack Honduran territory.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT ON NICARAGUAN STAND, CONTRAS

PA072110 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The members of the National Security Council have met for several hours with the president of the Republic. Present were Presidential Designate Jaime Rosenthal, President of Congress Carlos Montoya, and Ramon Villeda Bermudez, chief of the International Information Directorate.

Upon leaving, the president of the National Congress refused to comment on the subjects discussed and rejected the versions of the Nicaraguan president on the border incidents. In addition, he said that if the military agreement with the United States permits the training of contras by the Green Berets, it will be done.

[Begin recording] [Montoya] This handling of the no-man's-land concept is to justify the intervention in Honduras.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the National Congress consider the expulsion of the counterrevolutionaries from our territory?

[Montoya] I think we have stated that we pursue a policy of open doors for all refugees of any ideological stripe. We want every country to resolve its problems in accordance with the international rules of self-determination.

[Reporter] The talk in this case is about armed men.

[Montoya] Yes, but these gentlemen are engaged in a civil war; they come and enter Honduras, and I have said that it is impossible to control the border. I thought that Ortega's army of over 350,000 men could well guard that border.

[Reporter] Would you therefore agree with joint patrolling by Honduran and Nicaraguan soldiers?

[Montoya] I think that it is the responsibility of the Nicaraguan Government to guard its borders. Since it has so many men under arms, it should place them there to guard that border. [end recording]

PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNATE ON BORDER CLASH, U.S. AID

PA081914 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Apr 86

[By Jose Domingo Flores; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Flores] Presidential Designate Jaime Rosenthal Oliva was asked by this station if fighting is continuing on the border following the Sandinist Army's violation of the Honduran territory.

[Rosenthal Oliva] "It was an invasion. (?It was not) a war because Honduras does not want war; it seeks peace. Nicaragua carried out an invasion, and Honduras was able to get them out."

[Flores] It is said that a senior Honduran official, more specifically you, stated that the United States pressured Honduras to request the $20 million in emergency assistance.

[Rosenthal Oliva] "I have heard that I have been mentioned as such, but I have been out of the country. I had gone to the IDB meeting in Costa Rica, and then I went to the United States for eye surgery. Therefore, I was not informed. I was not present at the meeting of the National Security Council on 24 March when, according to the report, the events took place. I was not in the country."

[Flores] What do you say about the statements, which according to Washington were made by a high-ranking Honduran official?

[Rosenthal Oliva] "I do not think they can be flatly judged. I think he was making his own analysis, which does not necessarily coincide with others' analyses."

[Flores] Do you think that Washington moved too fast in informing the Honduran people and the world about the border incidents?

[Rosenthal Oliva] "Apparently it did. The initial reports to the public apparently came from Washington. As I said, I was in the United States, and I learned about the information through newspapers and television."

[Flores] As the person responsible for leading this country, aren't you concerned about the situation?

[Rosenthal Oliva] "Well, the president of the Republic is in charge of leading the country. We follow his instructions, and the government operates as a team in a single direction."

[Flores] With these military maneuvers [with the United States] and the military equipment that has arrived in the country, it is believed that we are on a war footing. What do you think?

[Rosenthal Oliva] "Well, a country that has a country that is arming itself as its neighbor must be ready for any eventuality. However, the Honduran Government has repeatedly stated that we are a country of peace."

[Flores] Can peace be achieved while a neighbor is arming itself?

[Rosenthal Oliva] "Well, all civilized countries seek peace. Many experts say that the only way to achieve peace is to be prepared for war, in other words to have sufficient armed forces to repel any aggression."

[Flores] What can you tell us about the contras?

[Rosenthal Oliva] "I have not met many of them."

[Flores] The president of the Honduran Congress says that the contras are in Honduras.

[Rosenthal Oliva] "Well, I think it would be almost childish to deny that they exist because the U.S. Congress is openly discussing granting $70 million in military aid and $30 million in other types of aid to the contras who are said to be in Honduras. They have to be somewhere. I personally have not met them."

[Flores] It is said that they might be trained in Honduran territory and that the government could give the U.S. authorities permission to do this.

[Rosenthal Oliva] "Well, many things are said."

[Flores] The president of the Congress said this.

[Rosenthal Oliva] "I heard the congressional president's remarks but I think that what he said was that there was this possibility, based on the 1954 treaty. I think it would be very premature to say such a thing. He might have a reason to say this. Maybe he wants Congress to approve some changes in the treaty."

[Flores] Regarding the current administration, it said that there is no leadership in the country.

[Rosenthal Oliva] "Well, when a person wins an election with that number of votes, I think it is quite unrealistic to make such a statement. One has to be a leader to get that number of votes."

[Flores] Why is it said that you were the one who said that Honduras did not request the aid from the United States?

[Rosenthal Oliva] "Well, I speak English, and it is said that the remarks were probably in English. However, I understand that the U.S. reporters have translators or speak Spanish."

GOVERNMENT NOT CONSIDERING ASYLUM FOR MARCOS

PA072147 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] In view of reports circulating that President Azcona Hoyo has held talks with a Philippine archbishop regarding the possibility of granting political asylum to former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, the Secretariat of Information has issued a communique clarifying this matter.

At no time has President Jose Azcona Hoyo shown any interest in granting political asylum to former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, as was erroneously reported yesterday in the local press, spokesmen of the Information Office of the Secretariat of the Presidency said yesterday.

In view of the situation, the following clarification is made: At midnight on Sunday, 30 March, Philippine President Corazon Aquino held a phone conversation with President Azcona [4-second break in transmission] would grant asylum to Ferdinand Marcos [47-second break in transmission] a regrettable mistake, with unknown purposes.

ARMED FORCES PUBLIC RELATIONS HEAD ON SOVEREIGNTY

PA050332 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2258 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Telephone interview with Major Jorge Arguello, Armed Forces Public Relations director, by Juan Bautista; on 4 April in Tegucigalpa -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Bautista] Good morning Major, our microphone is at your service.

[Arguello] Good morning, Juan Bautista. Regarding an international dispatch, I was interviewed a few days ago here in my office by a reporter from THE NEW YORK TIMES about the same issue. The Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate's official reply is a categorical denial that we are being used or pushed around as it has been said. Ours is a sovereign country, and just as we cannot intervene in the internal affairs of other countries, we also have that sovereign right of no one intervening in our problems. We have sufficient capacity to get ahead. Now, regarding a denial of an invasion of our territory by the Sandinist People's Army forces, you have been to the zone of the incident and know perfectly well the situation we are facing and that still persists in the zone of Capire and in the Entrerios Cordillera.

[Bautista] Major, why do you think the U.S. news media and some European international news agencies are conducting a misinformation campaign against Honduras and damaging the country's image?

[Arguello] There are situations which, Juan Bautista, you must understand, I do not wish to refer to them because of my office's responsibility and because we do not want to get involved, and also I am not authorized to give a specific reply; therefore, I wish to abstain from making any comments on the subject.

[Bautista] I understand. I was asking you that because the Honduran Army is being referred to as a puppet, as something controlled by the United States, to do and say what the U.S. Government wants.

[Arguello] I repeat once again that the Honduran Army, the Honduran Armed Forces, has been acting in a very professional way complying with the sacred duty established by the Constitution.

You have witnessed incidents that have taken place and continue to take place in the border zone, where our troops are on the alert and doing their duty. We do not have the least doubt that we are facing a situation in which the Sandinist invasion has really taken place. After listening to Commander Ortega's statements, I am really surprised. It is logical to believe that he is never going to accept everything they are doing against our country. I am surprised by his statements in which he denied that there are problems and that our people, Hondurans, have been affected by the Sandinist attacks. We have proof. You know very well that is so. Right here in my files we have a number of incidents I will mention, such as the problem of the helicopter in which a group of Honduran officers were killed. We have cases of peasants, of the Soviet mines planted in our territory killing Honduran soldiers and civilians. The latest incident took place at the end of January this year, when children were hit by Sandinist troops' mortar fire, killing two. Two others were left disabled. We could mention a lot of cases. As a matter of fact, you, too, have carried full reports on situations we have had to endure from the Sandinists.

[Bautista] Major, referring to another news agency, it has been learned here in Tegucigalpa through ACAN, that General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, former Armed Forces chief, has been seen several times in Palmerola Air Base, talking to members of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. What can you tell us about this?

[Arguello] I cannot confirm what you have said, because I have not seen him personally. This is all I can say about this.

[Bautista] The ACAN report datelined Tegucigalpa also says that an ACAN reporter has been threatened. The report says: ACAN correspondent in Tegucigalpa, German Reyes, received threats against his life last night from two unidentified men in downtown Tegucigalpa who tried to pass themselves off as Honduran authorities. The threats against Reyes were caused by a report obtained from a military source which says that Gen Alvarez, former Honduran Armed Forces chief, is an adviser for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. These are the two paragraphs of the long report which you already know about, Major.

[Arguello] Yes. Well, I thank you for the opportunity to address the Honduran people. Thanks again.

MILITARY OFFICIAL RECOUNTS CLASHES WITH EPS

PA051958 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1823 GMT 5 Apr 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 5 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Army and the Sandinist forces which since March have been carrying out incursions into this territory recently clashed again, a military official reported today.

Colonel Danilo Carvajal Molina, who is in charge of Task Force 17, which is reinforcing border positions in the Entre Rios mountain range in the eastern El Paraiso Department bordering with Nicaragua, said that there "are still some Sandinists in our territory." The officer explained that from 19 March to this date the patrols have engaged in 29 clashes, leaving a toll of several dead and many wounded among the Sandinists whom he believes "were left behind by a larger group that must be in Nicaragua by now."

So far only five bodies of Sandinists killed in the clashes and seven prisoners from the "Francisco Estrada" and "German Pomares" Sandinist battalions, which include over 1,500 soldiers and were the ones who entered Honduras, have been shown to the press.

The Honduran Army, which has the logistical and economic support of the United States in these actions, has not reported any casualties.

Carvajal Molina pointed out that the combat areas are in very rugged terrain. Sometimes even radio communication with the troops is lost. The military chief showed a video of the Soviet-made weapons left behind by the Sandinists when fleeing from Honduras.

There are RPK machine guns, RPG and SAM-7 rocket launchers, ammunition for these weapons, mines, AK-47 assault rifles, a grenade launcher and a large amount of ammunition for the same, boots, uniforms, blankets, and other war materiel.

"We are very worried about the areas which the Sandinists have mined in our territory, because most of the potential victims are civilians, their domestic animals, and military personnel."

The colonel disclosed that he is supported by artillery of every kind and range, but to date it has been used only for testing and aiming.

Carvajal Molina has 850 men who are trained in mountain warfare and several infantry battalions that were airlifted into the combat area by U.S. helicopters.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA ON 'SIXTH ARMY' PRESENT IN BORDER AREA

PA090415 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Near the end of a special "Face the People" television program, President Daniel Ortega answered a question about the sixth army in the region and Honduras' becoming another Lebanon.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] There is an army in Guatemala, another in El Salvador, a third in Honduras, another in Nicaragua, and also in Costa Rica, the so-called Costa Rican Civil Guard. It has been said that these armies exist within a constitutional or institutional framework. They correspond to real states with their various problems.

But there is a sixth army that the United States has been creating and developing in Honduran territory near the Nicaraguan border. It is a United States army formed by mercenary forces in the service of United States, that is to say, the counterrevolutionary forces. This is the sixth army.

In addition, there are U.S. troops in Honduran territory. They are there to threaten Nicaragua. They pose as builders there.

Regarding the presence of U.S. troops in Honduras, there is an agreement between the Honduran state and the United States. Legally speaking, there can be no objection. The presence of the counterrevolutionary army does, however, harm the stability of Central America. In the first place, it harms and threatens the stability and sovereignty of Honduras and, naturally, Nicaragua.

This sixth army has been taking up Honduran territory on the border with Nicaragua. This army is included in the U.S. budget. Every year the amount this mercenary army will receive is determined. It is debated whether the aid will be military or humanitarian. To tell the truth, military aid for this army has been delivered in the form of U.S.-made rifles and surface-to-air missiles. The United States is now debating the delivery of $100 million to this sixth army. This sixth army constitutes a threat to Honduras, to Nicaragua, and to the Central American region. This army has been created by the United States in Honduran territory.

[Unidentified reporter] What about Honduras' situation?

[Ortega] This puts Honduras in a very dangerous situation. The country risks becoming another Lebanon. There are mercenary forces in Honduras who have occupied a stretch of its territory. These forces have committed crimes against the Honduran population along the border. Recently, they murdered a priest in Honduras, these freedom fighters of President Reagan. This situation really threatens Honduras' stability and poses a potential danger of Honduras becoming another Lebanon. [end recording]

Discusses U.S. Policy

PA090433 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0311 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] President Daniel Ortega has reiterated his willingness to meet with the Honduran president as well as with the other Central American presidents.

In the last part of a special "Face the People" program broadcast on television, Ortega said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] ... to talk with Honduran President Azcona Hoyo?

[Ortega] I already discussed this situation with President Azcona when he had not yet assumed the Presidency and was attending President Vinicio Cerezo's inauguration in Guatemala. We discussed the matter broadly with him and his team on that occasion. We found them to be willing to find a solution to these problems. We have had telephone conversations afterward, such as the one we had during Holy Week, and we are going to continue to insist so we can advance in a constructive dialogue. Of course, we are willing to meet with President Azcona and with all the Central American presidents, at the bilateral and [words indistinct] levels.

[Reporter] Commander, rightist political sectors that abstained from participating in the 4 November elections have been circulating a so-called proposal for national reconciliation with the blessing of the Reagan administration, which includes, among other things, a cease-fire, amnesty, calling new elections, and so forth. This proposal is really a [words indistinct] factor against the Sandinist Revolution....

[Ortega] Yes. The United States uses some political groups here to promote its proposals. A proposal promoted by these political groups is essentially a Reagan proposal.

[Reporter] The United States has begun two large military operations these days.

One in Honduras, with the "Lempira-86" maneuvers, and the other one in the Caribbean countries with the "Ocean Venture" exercises. In your opinion, what risk do these exercises pose for the region in general, and particularly for Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Well, in a situation such as the one Nicaragua is currently facing due to U.S. attacks, at a time when the U.S. Congress is discussing ways to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution, and the fact that these maneuvers are taking place simulanteously with the debates and voting in the U.S. Congress, we can expect nothing good for peace in the region.

[Reporter] Can overall agreements for the region -- as some sectors have proposed -- be reached under these conditions?

[Ortega] Well, I think that so long as the United States maintains an attitude of confrontation, of war, an aggressive attitude, it will be difficult to reach any agreement. In the meantime, so long as the United States continues tc pressure the Central American governments to prevent an agreement, so long as the United States continues sabotaging the Contadora Group's peace efforts, it will be very difficult to reach an overall agreement. [end recording]

U.S. OFFICIALS CITED ON CONTADORA GROUP MEETING

PA082212 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] The U.S. Government has unmasked its torpedoing policy against the Contadora Group. After stating that the meeting in Panama City was a failure, Elliott Abrams said that the attacks against Nicaragua are part of a policy of pressure on our country aimed at forcing us to negotiate.

VOA broadcast a statement last night by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, expressed in lousy Spanish, in which the U.S. Government official, self-styled the beast, reaffirmed that the Reagan administration will persist in requesting the $100 million in aid for the contras, whom he called instruments of pressure. [sentence as heard] Abrams will speak today before a U.S. congressional committee.

After despising the Contadora Group's negotiating efforts, representatives of the mercenary forces echoed Washington's assertions that the Contadora Group has failed and is virtually finished.

In an attempt to create confusion, the White House's hawks and some congressmen who favor the continuous attacks against Nicaragua yesterday invented a report that the Nicaraguan delegation received advice from Cubans during the Contadora Group's meeting. The inconsistent lie voiced by a U.S. congressman by the name of Bill Richardson -- one of the congressmen repudiated by the Contadora Group for supporting the contras -- collapsed when journalists asked Contadora Group representatives about the alleged Cuban presence. The only Cubans near the foreign ministers' conclave where three PRENSA LATINA reporters, international agencies confirmed.

D'ESCOTO SAYS U.S. BLOCKING PEACE EFFORTS

PA081436 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto last night accused the United States of blocking the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group in Central America.

D'Escoto, who returned from Panama last night at approximately 2300, said that the foreign ministers meeting was very positive because the unanimous decision to continue the process of negotiation was reiterated. Foreign Minister D'Escoto said that at this moment conditions are not favorable for signing the peace treaty because it is evident that no country can negotiate matters involving the purchase of defense weapons when it is faced with an aggression such as the one experienced by Nicaragua because of the United States.

[Begin D'Escoto recording] Despite the willingness of the Central American countries to continue the process of negotiation to complete the issues still pending in the draft of the document, at this moment the conditions are not appropriate because the United States continues to block Contadora.

It is evident that no responsible country, no responsible government, can negotiate matters related to the purchase of the necessary means for its defense, or the restriction of these, under circumstances of aggression. Nicaragua is a country that is being attacked by one of the largest powers of the world, we could say the richest and most powerful, militarily speaking, and under these evident circumstances, it [Nicaragua] is not in any condition to discuss the topics pending in the document that have to do with military development and security matters. That is what Caraballeda says, what the Guatemala document states, and what Punta del Este document ratifies. Therefore, this is what we have stated because it is fair and reasonable. Doing the contrary would be illogical. [end recording]

The foreign minister also stressed that Contadora is not only negotiating the document, but it is also a Latin American organization for negotiating peace and to halting foreign intervention.

[Begin recording] Despite the fact that the United States continues to block the possibility of continuing the negotiations of the draft document, it is necessary that we realize that Contadora cannot solely be identified with this draft document or the eventual signing of a document.

Contadora is a Latin American organization to negotiate peace, guarantee the security of the Central American countries, and an organization to struggle against foreign intervention. It also has other duties even if it is not allowed to continue working on the regional global treaty. Contadora has other things to do such as what is doing within the control and vigilance commission between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

We have asked that a similar commission, sponsored by Contadora, be appointed for our northern border; between Honduras and Nicaragua. These are also very important tasks that more than justify the continuation of this important group and clearly show its importance despite the fact that the drafting of the document cannot continue because the United States is blocking it.

We will continue to put forth our efforts to end the blockade on the part of the United States so that we may conclude the negotiation and get ready for the signing and implementation of the document. [end recording]

NUNEZ DISCUSSES DRAFT CONSTITUTION, U.S. ACTIONS

PA062350 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Interview with Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the National Assembly and member of the FSLN National Directorate, by unidentified reporters; place and date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Commander Nunez, one of the questions that the international community, which is closely following the situation between Nicaragua and the United States and between Nicaragua and its neighboring countries, Costa Rica and Honduras, keeps asking itself is: What would the Nicaraguan people do if war is declared, if they are invaded, if they are attacked? Are the people prepared at all levels?

[Nunez] Whenever I am asked this question I try to answer in the following manner: The possibilities of a U.S. Government or U.S. invasion of Nicaragua are real. They are a world power. The problem is not whether the U.S. troops are capable or not of entering Nicaragua. This they can do. The problem is how those troops will carry out their mission, that is, occupy Nicaraguan territory in the fastest possible time. We have always said that the U.S. problem is not how they will enter the country, but how they will leave. Evidently we are prepared to hold them back and resist their attack. Our strength is our organized and armed people.

[Question] The main concern lies in the fact that if the Nicaraguan people are prepared for a hard and dangerous confrontation, for example a confrontation with the United States, then what will be the reaction of other powerful allies, like Cuba or the USSR? Also, what kind of repercussions would be felt at the Central American level?

[Nunez] In Nicaragua we have won the respect of the international community with our determination, firmness, organization, and capacity to respond to the situations we may encounter. In the face of the possibility of an eventual U.S. invasion, and in order to have the necessary moral authority to demand of all the peoples of the world that they take a specific and strong stance, not only to condemn but also to demand that the United States put aside its interventionist plans, we must be prepared. This is what we are working towards; to respond in an efficient, extreme, and firm manner to any U.S. intervention.

In the event that the defeat of the counterrevolution draws closer, the U.S. Administration is left with a single weapon: intervention. We are not planning on returning to the caves or to clandestine life; we are planning to practice the war of the people; hit the invader wherever he may be, in every municipality, city, house. We will wear, wear, and wear them out, which was Sandino's great idea. We will struggle effectively, but this time we will have an organized and armed people who will not run in the face of intervention.

You are asking me about the general preparedness of our people. If the United States has done something bad, and from our viewpoint some good has come from it because it has given us [words indistinct] some of the few good things that have resulted from this, it is that all the measures it has adopted -- the blockade, cutting off our aid, the murders, financing of the Somozist criminals -- have led our people to understand that in the United States there is a government policy that differs from the feelings of the U.S. people toward the revolution. Therefore, when we say in Nicaragua that the Yankee is the enemy of humankind, we are not referring to the U.S. people, we are referring to the interventionists, those who want a war with Nicaragua.

What repercussions would result from this? First, as I already said, we will defend ourselves with our own resources and efforts. Should an intervention occur, we would not rely on aid from the USSR, France, or the Latin American continent. We would rely on our own organization, our own resources, and our own people to reject the intervention. We would do this before the world [words indistinct] if they should assume such a position. A U.S. intervention would represent a violation of every international law. They would be enforcing the law of the jungle and force on the world. This would be a warning for every country to begin preparing, because after an intervention in Nicaragua, the United States would think that it has the right to betray its allies or intervene in any country of the world. [passage indistinct]

[Question] Excuse me, Commander, on the same question, you have expressed what Sandino said. However, do you think that the Nicaraguan people will respond to a call from the FSLN? There are ill feelings and misunderstandings in Nicaragua; there is no food, there is no soap; there is no toothpaste; the people are not getting the basic products; there is no toilet paper; or many other things that the people need for their well-being.

[Nunez] The Nicaraguan people have taught their leaders a few lessons. One of these is to resolve the problems internally and establish the necessary mechanisms so that the different classes and social sectors can present their demands, express criticisms, and demand answers. They have every right to know our limitations; they have a right to know if something is not being done because of inefficiency or plain laziness. These are some of the lessons we have learned from our people.

Regarding the defense of the national sovereignty, there may be some Nicaraguans who will not respond to that call. But the main forces of the nation, the laborers, peasants, youths, and women, will respond to the call, and we have faith that they will respond.

To further expand on your question, I wish to tell you that in Nicaragua we need more weapons to distribute among the people. Many times we have distributed the weapons that are used for defense training purposes. If we did not have the support of the people, all those weapons would have been turned on us. I have total faith in the people. They will respond adequately if we are invaded. Each person knows what he must do; they know who will occupy the trenches; who will organize the people to defend themselves in case of shelling or bombings; who will be responsible for medical services, etc. All this is necessary for us to respond efficiently in case of an attack.

[Question] Commander, for the past few years the international community has been wondering where the order for Anastasio Somoza Debayle's execution in Asuncion, Paraguay, came from.

[Nunez] When Anastasio Somoza was executed in Paraguay there was a celebration all over Nicaragua, in every city. Evidently our people felt they had been avenged with this execution, and it was even said that the people of Sandino were [word indistinct] that they had struggled even in Paraguay. The information that we received was that this had been a solidaristic action carried out by an internationalist commando, basically comprised of Argentines, and that they were responsible for executing Somoza. If you ask me where the order came from, I would have to say that is was issued by that commando. What is important is that a historic adjustment of accounts was made and that the henchman of the Nicaraguan people paid his dues with his life.

[Question] Commander Nunez, not much is known in Guatemala about what is happening in Nicaragua. We understand that a draft bill for a constitution exists and that it took several years to prepare.

However, we do not know the philosophical principle of this constitution. Will it be a socialist constitution, a liberal constitution? Undoubtedly it will be a revolutionary constitution that will change the context of the 10 previous constitutions Nicaragua has had. Other questions also arise, and these involve problems common in Central America. One of these is the agrarian problem. How does the new Nicaraguan constitution approach the problem of the land? How is private initiative affected? Will there be room for private initiative in the progress and development of the country?

[Nunez] I will try to answer your questions in an overall manner. The drafting of the constitution in Nicaragua is very important, historic and strategic. For the first time in our history our people have participated in the drafting of a political constitution. First of all, I must tell you that every constitution must reflect a specific situation. I think we would be making a mistake if we were to draft a socialist constitution. If we did this we would be overlooking our own reality, the reality of the Central American region, the reality of our continent, and above all the reality of our own country. Therefore, let us put aside the idea that in Nicaragua we are drafting a socialist constitution.

Second, we believe that the constitution must include three main areas. First, it must include the Nicaraguan situation; its social, economic, political, and historic changes. It must also take into consideration the situation of the Latin American continent. The third main aspect is that this constitution must reflect the world's constitutional experiences if these are deemed helpful to us. We are presumptuous, and we do not deny this. We do not want our constitution to be established by traditions. We want to offer a constitution that will include the revolutionary changes occurring in Nicaragua in every aspect of the political, economic, material, and social life. Therefore, when we are asked to describe the kind of constitution we are drafting, we say that it will reflect the current plan being implemented in Nicaragua from every viewpoint. What does this mean?

First, that the principles established by the Sandinist people's revolution be given constitutional status. What are these principles? There are basically three of them: defense of the national sovereignty as expressed by Sandino; the socio-economic changes taking place in Nicaragua; and a real democracy. anti-imperialism, anti-interventionism, nonalignment, a mixed economy, Latin Americanism, Central Americanism, solidarity of the peoples toward Nicaragua and their help in the development of this constitution -- all stem from these principles. This is one of the great components of this constitution; I would even say that they are the political and ideological components of the revolutionary state's new philosophy.

Other important components will be what is described as the general and dogmatic aspects. As reporters you will be interested in the dogmatic aspect, because this includes the establishment of individual and group rights. We are not drafting a constitution that will be valid only in these times; the war is an accident, and it will have to end some day -- at least we hope it will. The day the war is over and the restrictive measures are no longer necessary, the constitution will already include the individual and collective rights of all Nicaraguans. We have included in these individual and collective rights a new aspect, which is the political participation of the people in the management of the state and in the revolutionary changes.

In Nicaragua we do not think that decision should be made without the knowledge of the people. The constitution must establish the right of the people to participate in the decision-making process, in the making of the political, economic, and social decisions.

Several other individual rights have been included; among these we have the right o. information, religious freedom, the state's secular nature, and strict respect for human rights. In the constitution we have also mentioned all the treaties that Nicaragua has signed with various international organizations on the issue of human rights. At the same time we defined the socio-economic regime to be implemented in Nicaragua, which should be a mixed regime. This mixed socio-economic regime guarantees the state societies, private societies, cooperative societies, and mixed societies. The main aspect includes the nationalization of the banks, and free health and education. Also of importance is the broad nature given to the agrarian reform and the right to form cooperatives. This was done because of the country's agricultural export nature. The constitution establishes that the peasant has a right to the land and is free to decide what to do with it, together with his family. This land cannot be touched by the state under any circumstances, because the idea of the revolution is that each peasant in Nicaragua should have his piece of land and have the right to make it produce. Likewise, the peasant will have the right to organize in cooperatives. These can be industrial, agricultural, or handicrafts cooperatives. They will have the right to choose freely the type of organization they want.

[Question] LA PRENSA and other media have been closed down. The participation of all the political parties is allowed, but you very well said it and the draft constitution states it: No political parites with Somozist or similar ideologies will be permitted. In that case you are pushing aside economic sectors, which are right wing, in a process to integrate a nation. In addition, you said that it is not a constitution with a socialist style. However, you said that you are implementing agrarian reform in which the state can, at any given time and according to the public and state need, take the land away from its owners to distribute it in the agrarian reform.

You talk about respect for private property. However, in the draft constitution the state, of its own free will or in accordance with the government's needs, can -- let's not say take away -- expropriate property. In addition, in your constitution you talk about the just price for the land, but this just price is established specifically by the state. In other words, the state is the great comptroller of all the economy....

[Nunez, interrupting] The administrator.

[Question] Yes, the administrator of all the economy of Nicaragua. Then why do you have these contradictions with aspects of a new liberalism, but then you also include socialistic matters?

[Nunez] Well, I think that the word... [changes thought] [words indistinct] afraid of the word socialism and the word socialistic. On the contrary, we think that we want to have enough culture to control the sciences. [sentence as heard]

But I said previously that the fact that Nicaragua, because of war circumstances, faces a special situation cannot lead us to contemplate this special situation in the constitution would not be valid.

Therefore the experts, like you the press, and the observers would say: They made an effort for nothing. They were unable to draft an adequate and respectable constitution. The Sandinists do not fulfill their commitments. Then, we.... [changes thought] The principle of freedom of the press, freedom of information, freedom of religion, the right to inform and become informed, freedom of thought -- even if we have the emergency law at the present time -- must be established as principles.

If we eliminate the emergency law tomorrow, the principle remains because it was already established. Then it would be a contradiction if we see that what is occurring right now does not negate reality, because there is a war going on. Consequently, we've had to pay a price: for example, when we established press restrictions. [Words indistinct] higher cost which would involve closing a radio station indefinitely, as was the case of Radio Catolica due to the provocations of the church's hierarchy. We had to close that station, you see?

From this perspective, we must see that what we are trying to do is (?implement) a revolutionary constitution that includes the people's individual and collective rights, even if we have restrictions right now. [passage indistinct] In addition, we have the responsibility to respond to a historic claim for demands by our people.

With revolutionary victory we had a total separation in Nicaragua. A society ended, and a new one appeared. A state was destroyed, and a new one was born. It is still brand new, it will be barely 7 years old. It is in the process of perfection, but it involves a revolutionary program.

Therefore, in the past the land in Nicaragua, including the large productive latifundium, was in private hands. The landowners were a minority. The large majorities did not have any rights excpet that which stated that you had to die of hunger. Hopes were born with the revolution. The people wanted to calm their thirst for justice. For this justice the people gave up the lives of 50 [figure as heard] in the final stage of the struggle against Somoza.

One must take away from some to give to others. So, who are we going to sacrifice? Are we going to sacrifice the large majorities or the small minorities? We are going to favor the large majorities, and thus we have to affect the minorities. However, we try to establish a policy in order not to be unjust, arbitrary, or indiscriminate. So when we apply the agrarian reform law, first we attach the unused land, then the abandoned lands, and finally the lands used for counterrevolutionary activities.

We try to promote a policy of understanding with the large producers who are efficient -- and we cannot deny this efficiency -- when we are going to attach their land to give it to peasant families that do not have any land or any way to support themselves. Then, if that person has, for example, 10,000 manzanas, they can give 5,000 of what they have to resolve the problem of peasant families. We are still leaving that person with 5,000 as a way to recognize his efficiency and his productive capacity, even if he is a government opponent. This is, as I mentioned, the difficulty that a revolutionary process has to go through after such a violent change with the ouster of Somoza.

So, we try to.... [changes thought] Sometimes we make mistakes. We cannot deny it. But in applying agrarian reform we are using a policy to benefit the majority. For example, this year we have to resolve the problem of 50,000 families that do not have a place to live and had to be displaced from their places of origin by the action of Somozist counterrevolutionaries who were stealing their goods, invading their properties, and raping their women and daughters, and the families had to flee. Therefore, we have the case that [words indistinct] the country of 50,000 families that must have their land problem resolved in 1986. We must affect somebody. [Words indistinct] this is the sense of agrarian reform which objectively may appear as a contradiction, but we try, as much as possible, to maintain the nature of private property even if we have to face the harshest criticism.

[Question] Sociologically speaking, there can be a denial of a denial in this sense because you are saying that the constitution and the principles are being solely based on the status that Nicaragua has now. However, after a certain time, short-, medium-, or long-term, this status could disappear, so there won't be any reason for those principles. Then a new society or a new Nicaraguan economy would reject these principles. So the people who, as you said, can cause problems to the revolution would not be able to participate in that society. So after time passes there will be a denial of the denial of the current status that Nicaragua is experiencing right now. How can you resolve that problem in the face of these constitutional contradictions?

[Nunez] This draft constitution is merely a draft. But since we are not going to resolve, we want every class or social sector to state what they think of this draft, which you already know. [sentence as heard] They can either tear it apart or make it perfect.

So, before it is approved at the National Assembly this draft will be submitted to national consultations. The consultations we are going to hold will be called town meetings, using the old Indian tactic. These are large assemblies of large, medium, and small producers, industrialists, farmers, businessmen, clergymen, youths, women, workers, and peasants. In these assemblies, after they thoroughly know this draft, they will tell us whether they like it or not and what they want established in the constitution, particularly in their social sector. We want them to tell us and point out the contradictions in it.

We have sought a democratic way in this national consultation so that the constitution won't be drafted only in an office, as is the traditional practice. We feel that we are a parliment that is closely linked to the people. To draft a constitution in an office is what can create the worst historical contradictions. We prefer to meet with the people so that they can tell us: You did a bad job and must draft a new one. But in this type of important decision we want the people's approval and support.

There could be some contradictions in it, but we want, for example, the large businessmen to tell us not only the possible justice we may have made, but how they guarantee their [words indistinct] within the revolutionary process. Within the economic-social system we are defining, I can tell you that we are not afraid of talking with the large producers as long as we get an effective contribution from them.

[Question] But how about the large producers, the medium-sized producers, are they afraid to speak with you? You say you are not afraid to talk with them, but they have shown that they are afraid to talk with you. There are reports circulating in Central America to the effect that they are afraid to talk with you.

[Nunez] I would say that in Nicaragua there are thousands of large and medium-sized producers (?that are demanding) most the importance of establishing mechanisms with the state that will allow for clear and opportune conversations for resolving all the problems. [sentence as heard] There might become who are afraid to talk with us, but I believe that basically there will be a willingness to participate more in this type of assembly, especially since this is a project. I am sure they will answer in a positive manner.

Now, concerning the other aspects, we have pointed out in this constitution, at least in a commission of the FSLN, that we hope -- as Morazan, Bolivar, and Sandino did -- to form part of what they called the great Central American nation, based on mutual respect, equality, and the excellent relations with the other countries, all based on their concepts of sovereignty.

Now, the fact that there are conterrevolutionary bases in Honduran territory, or that there are U.S. bases, does not determine the content of our constitution. I think this is a matter that the Honduran Government and people will have to resolve.

Now, from a point of view of Central American unity, [words indistinct] (?we have been studying) the proposal made by the Guatemalan president on the Central American parliament. We have been studying the proposal. We have also conducted some research on the subject. We believe that this is a topic that the presidents should discuss in Esquipulas, and then later the parliments should meet to better inform themselves of the ideas each one of them has and see the various ideas or alternatives, if the Central American parliment is agreed upon. In other words, the National Assembly is willing to respect an agreement of the Central American presidents on the Central American parliament. Later we could decide on the mechanisms.

[Question] Commander, you have just mentioned what the Central American parliament could be -- according to Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo -- a solution, a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis, the Nicaraguan crisis, the clashes with its neighbors, and, particularly, the end to a war with the United States [as heard]. According to you, what is the most tactical solution to the problem? That is my first question. My second question is, what does Ronald Reagan represent for you now? What is Ronald Reagan to the Nicaraguans, and particularly to the Sandinists?

[Nunez] I think ideas later result in experiments, and I think that in connection with the Latin American Parliment there is only one idea that must be thoroughly developed. Furthermore, I believe that one of the greatest decisions that the presidents will face in the Esquipulas meeting is to ask if this Central American parliament is fulfilling a political mission or if it is going to be created for other purposes, such as working for Central American integration, for maintaining harmonious relations among the Central American parliaments, such as [words indistinct]. This is something that should be developed to face the current problems.

I think that the Central American problem can be resolved only through the specific will of the Central American countries on the other hand, in the manner in which Latin America is united as such, with its own claims and achievements in order to establish an order and to have that order respected. By not supporting the Contadora efforts or the Caraballeda declaration, the U.S. President has just mocked all of the Latin American countries, which is the Latin American conscience. As an empire it has kept silent while it finances the mercenary bands operating in Honduras. Thus, in this regard I think it would be too hasty to think that the Central American parliament [words indistinct] could resolve the Central American crisis. It could be effective and play an important role, but decisions will have to be made to this effect.

What is Ronald Reagan to us? He is a sort of international criminal who violates the law, who does not listen to his people, who wants to involve the Congress in an illegal war. Congress has not even called him to account, but it is discussing how to kill our people with multimillion-dollar aid that might amount to $100 or $50 million.

A nation such as the United States that claims to be the champion of democracy is deciding on the future of a small nation of only 3 million people who [words indistinct] of having waged a revolution the U.S. Administration does not like. We think we have our right to order our (?destruction). Why should Reagan decide on that?

If you go to Nicaragua you will see children playing Sandinists and contras. Hardly anyone wants to play the role of a contra; they all prefer to play the role of Sandinists. If you ask a Nicaraguan child who Ronald Reagan is, the child will answer that Reagan is the man who is putting an end to the happiness of the Nicaraguan children. We have reached that extreme in Nicaragua. It has awakened a feeling of hostility, and it has increased a feeling of hostility toward the U.S. Government. It is not just a political feeling. Now then, these ideas serve to point out the impact that this has caused on Nicaragua, that is, this illegal war that Reagan has declared.

[Question indistinct]

[Nunez] I think it is possible. We think that the conditions that the U.S. Administration wants to create are [words indistinct]. I think no Central American or Latin American country would be tranquil if the U.S. Government should decide to send interventionist forces to Nicaragua.

Why do we say there is a possibility of Vietnamization? Because the Nicaraguan problem has become an international problem. The U.S. Government has taken it outside of Central America, and it renders homage to the spirit of McCarthy. Right now the ghost hovering over all of the United States is MaCarthy. Anyone opposing Reagan is considered a communist. That is the extreme that the U.S. Government has reached, it is insane, paranoiac. [passage indistinct]

The threat of an intervention is increasing. There are U.S. bases in Honduras, and there are counterrevolutionary bases. Furthermore, there are bases in the Panama Canal. If there were to be a U.S. intervention, it would not surprise anyone if the first bombers were to leave from the bases at Palmerola and also from the Panama Canal bases. They also want to use the counterrevolution as a factor of diversion of [words indistinct].

Thus, they then create what Daniel calls the war without borders. The war takes off from various territories or combat is held in territories where it is easier to reach victory more quickly, and the war is going on in various fronts. Then tension builds up, and we could end up like the Middle East, like Lebanon, for example. How many nations are involved there? Syria, Libya, Lebanon, Israel, and the U.S. Government caused all the tension in all the (?sons of Allah).

[Question] "Teleprensa" [title of newscast] has presented a special exclusive program with Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the National Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Nicaragua.

VICE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMAN

PA052232 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado met this afternoon with an official envoy of the U.S. Congress, Les Aspin. No details of what they discussed have been released. After the meeting, Aspin [words indistinct] refused to speak about the topics that were discussed. Meanwhile, Vice President Ramirez continued with his agenda and met with a delegation of three Swiss legislators.

Aspin, representative from Wisconsin, arrived in Nicaragua on Wednesday to see the Nicaraguan situation first-hand.

SOVIET MINISTER ON U.S. CENTRAL AMERICA POLICY

PA072145 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Soviet Justice Minister Aleksandr Sukharev [title as heard] is visiting our country to honor an invitation from the Jurists Association of Managua. He held a press conference in which he discussed jurisprudence and international law.

The minister said that there is discontent among all jurists in the face of the U.S. disregard for and violation of The Hague tribunal statutes. This constitutes an agression against international law.

He described as negative the meddling of countries in the international affairs of other nations. At the end of the press conference, he discussed his visit to and pointed out that the most important thing is that the Nicaraguan people know what they are after and what they are fighting for.

While in Nicaragua he visited Regions 4 and 6, where he met with the Jurists Association of Matagalpa and commented on the warmongering attitude of the U.S. Administration.

[Begin recording in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] The current U.S. Administration headed by Reagan does not respect the UN Charter or international treaties or agreements. The Reagan administration is trying to involve Nicaragua and its revolution in terrorism; however, the United States is the real promoter of international terrorism. [end recording]

MONGE CITED ON FUTURE OF CONTADORA GROUP

PA040034 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge today described the attempts to rehabilitate the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group as desperate and dramatic. Monge, who was pessimistic regarding the advances of the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group, believes that the future of the group is uncertain because it cannot even set a date for the signing of the peace agreement.

Meanwhile, on 5 and 6 April the four Contadora Group foreign ministers and the Support Group will meet to reach a peace agreement in the region.

AZCONA DENIAL OF U.S. AID REQUEST NOTED

PA081929 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said yesterday that neither he nor his government asked the United States for economic aid during the Holy Week crisis when Nicaraguan troops allegedly crossed into Honduran territory. In a communique issued by the Honduran territory. In a communique issued by the Honduran Government's Press Secretariat Azcona Hoyo said that Honduras limited itself only to requesting air transportation for its troops so tht they could be taken to areas where the Sandinist soldiers had allegedly crossed. The Honduran President described some local and foreign press versions in that Honduras had asked the U.S. President for economic aid as persistent and false.

In March President Reagan ordered $20 million in emergency aid for Honduras for the deployment of soldiers to the border with Nicaragua. According to the U.S. Administration, this aid was requested by Azcona Hoyo's government.

BAHAMAS

FNM EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER RELATIONS WITH CUBA

FL081630 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Apr 86 p 1

[By Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt] The action group of the Free National Movement [FNM] expressed its concern today about the "apparent revived friendliness and cordiality" between the Bahamas and Cuban Governments, saying it will oppose an attempt to establish a Cuban Embassy in Nassau.

The action group also questioned the level of sincerity that exists in an agreement between the Bahamas and Cuban Governments relating to "full cooperation in the interdiction of drug smugglers" when recent events prove both governments have benefited so handsomely.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli last week visited the Bahamas for talks with his Bahamian counterpart, Foreign and Tourism Minister Clement Maynard on matters of mutual interest.

"The action group of the Free National Movement expresses its concern over the apparent revived friendliness and cordiality between the corrupt Pindling government and the communist regime of Fidel Castro," Chairman George Wilson said at a press conference today at the action group headquarters.

"The attitude of long lost brothers, exhibited between the Bahamian and Cuban foreign ministeries and their respective ministers, Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, and Deputy Prime Minister Clement Maynard, is an affront to the memory of the May 10 heroes which for some reason or another has been continuously downplayed by the PLP [Progressive Liberal Party] government," Mr Wilson said.

Mr Wilson said that even if Minister Maynard forgets, the Bahamian people cannot forget that four Bahamian sons were "murdered" in the execution of their duties during the sinking of the HMBS Flamingo off Ragged Island on May 10, 1980, by Cuban MiG jet fighters.

He also said that the Cubans "must yet apologise or express any form of remorse" for their actions.

"The Bahamian people must become very vigilant in light of this new 'excellent relationship' between the Cubans and the Bahamian Government," Mr Wilson said.

CENTRAL BANK RELEASES QUARTERLY REPORT

FL090127 Bridgetown CANA in English 1940 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, April 8, CANA -- The Bahamas experienced moderate growth in its export and tourism receipts in the third quarter of 1985, according to the Central Bank quarterly report just released.

The bank said that exports for the period were estimated at U.S.74.9 million dollars or U.S.4.2 million dollars above last year; and non-oil imports at U.S.179.5 million dollars for an increase of U.S.17.3 million dollars.

Oil imports fell by U.S.16.3 million dollars to 40.3 million dollars, with domestic imports down by 6.9 million dollars and foreign bunkers, by 9.4 million dollars.

The Ministry of Tourism estimate for tourist spending indicates a foreign exchange inflow for the quarter of 182.5 million dollars, an increase of 6.7 million dollars from a year ago, the bank said.

With the additional 4.9 million dollars of tourist receipts, which accrued directly to government, the estimated gross income from tourism totalled 187.4 million dollars, up 7.4 million dollars from a year earlier, travel outflows rose by an estimated 7.3 million dollars to 44.9 million dollars, the bank said.

Tourist arrivals for the third quarter totalled 629,440 an increase of 9.0 per cent over the same period a year ago. This compares with 3.9 per cent for the corresponding period last year.

The improvement for the quarter was due solely to sea arrivals, which rose significantly by 21.5 per cent to 311,780, arrivals by air dropped by 1.0 per cent to 317,760.

Consumer prices rose by 1.8 per cent during the third quarter, compared with 1.7 per cent in the previous quarter. For the 12 months period ending September, the consumer price index advanced by 4.6 per cent up from 3.7 per cent a year ago.

The rise in food costs moderated to 0.2 per cent from 0.6 per cent. However, on an annual basis, average food prices increased costs advanced by 1.5 per cent, up from 0.2 per cent in the previous quarter.

Domestic credit rose by 21.3 million dollars or three per cent for the review quarter. This is contrasted with a 12.8 million dollar or 2.0 per cent decline a year ago.

The Central Bank's external reserves decreased by 25.6 million dollars or 11 per cent, compared with 15.2 million dollars or eight per cent in 1984.

Commercial bank interest rates for the third quarter continued their downtrend, reflecting in part a relatively high level of liquidity.

For instance the average rate for savings desposits declined from 5.33 per cent to 5.00 per cent.

The bank said debt repayment for the quarter totalled 18.2 million dollars, of which 8.5 million dollars represented external payments. The remaining 9.7 million dollars went entirely towards the retirement of the Bahamian dollar portion of the internal debt.

The national debt outstanding for the quarter was put at 536.9 million dollars.

OPPOSITION PARTY CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT ON IMF

FL071750 Bridgetown CANA in English 1630 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 7, CANA -- The opposition Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) is predicting economic policy changes by the government in line with those advocated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In a weekend statement, the PPP accused the Desmond Hoyte administration for selling out to the IMF. It bases its claim on what it said was an announcement by the IMF that Guyana had been included in a new trust fund structural adjustment facility set up by the fund's executive board last March 27. The trust fund would be available to low-income countries currently eligible for the World Bank's International Development Agency resources, the party said.

The PPP quoted its Marxist leader Dr Cheddi Jagan as saying: It is a sad indictment on the Peoples National Congress (PNC) for having dragged a once prosperous country into the category of the world's poorest countries, bedevilled by increasing debt burdens and low incomes. Jagan said he expected retrogressive policy changes by the Guyana Goverment to meet IMF requirements. The party said that Guyana should not qualify for the trust fund, having been declared ineligible by the IMF for further assistance in 1985 because of debts to the institution.

The World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also cut off aid to Guyana, the PPP noted. The fact that Guyana would be participating in this new facility means that a USA/Guyana deal has been struck, the PPP said. It spoke of the silence of the United States Government about disputed allegations of fraud in last December's general election. The PPP statement recalled the attitude the late President Forbes Burnham towards the IMF in 1982 when he said the IMF proposals, calling for further devaluation, denationalisation, and retrenchment were a prescription to riot. Burnham had the political commonsense to reject them... the new administration is taking the IMF road. In the process, the Burnhamites are being side tracked and downgraded, the PPP said. It predicted greater disaster for Guyana if President Hoyte travels the IMF road, and said patriotic Guyanese should resist this course.

STATE CORPORATIONS BEGIN 'LARGE SCALE' STAFF CUTS

FL051919 Bridgetown CANA in English 1612 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 5, CANA -- Guyana's myriad state-owned corporations, mandated by government to lessen their dependence on the public purse, have begun large scale staff cuts, well informed sources here said today. About 200 workers at Guyana Transport Services Limited, some of them close to retirement age, have been sent notices of retrenchment, the sources said. Similar notices have also been served on dozens of staffers at the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation and at least 40 workers at the Guyana glassworks have been redeployed to other government agencies with less bleeders capacity.

President Desmond Hoyte, on two occasions this year, warned that his financially beleaguered government could not longer afford large subsidies to bleeders of the economy -- state corporations and agencies which do not make money. Making profits is important, he declared during one meeting with managers of these operations. Finance Minister Carl Greenidge, in his 1986 budget February 28, said government wanted Guyana's public corporations to convert their 1985 operating deficit of G58 million dollars (1 Guy doll; 24 cents U.S.) to a G123 million dollar surplus. A statement on the situation is expected from the Ministry of Manpower within a week, the sources said.

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CONGRESSMEN, BRITISH MP'S MEET IN MEXICO CITY

PY100329 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0128 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (TELAM) -- Argentine congressmen participating in the 75th IPU conference in Mexico have told their British counterparts that the possibility of establishing a successful dialogue between the United Kingdom and Argentina about the Malvinas Islands conflict would increase greatly if Mrs Thatcher's government would accept the last UN resolution on the subject. The meeting between the Argentine and the British legislators took place in the Sheraton Hotel of the Mexican capital, according to a telex received in the national Congress today. The telex was sent by a journalist accompanying the Argentine delegation.

The following Argentine congressmen participated in the meeting with the British MP's: Senators Luis Leon, from the Radical Civic Union [UCR]; Julio Amoedo, from the Justicialist Party [PJ]; Arturo Jimenez Montilla, from the PJ; and Carlos Gomez Centurion, from the Bloquista party; as well as Deputies Leopoldo Moreau from the UCR; Alfredo Mosso from the UCR; Luis Rubeo from the PJ, and Balbino Zubiri from the PJ.

David Clopurch and Michael Marshal of the Conservative party and Ted Rowlands of the Labor Party, who was secretary of the Foreign Office during the last Labor Party administration, attended the meeting for the British side.

The Argentine representatives pointed out during the meeting that the possibility of establishing a constructive dialogue would improve if the government of Margaret Thatcher would accept the UN resolution including all the aspects about the future of the islands and the sovereighty issue. The Argentine congressmen reaffirmed that peaceful negotiations are the only way to resolve the conflict. They also confirmed that the Argentine claims of sovereignty over the Malvinas will never be relinquished.

ALFONSIN ASSERTS COUNTRY'S RIGHT TO FALKLANDS

PY042236 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0112 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (TELAM) -- Tonight President Raul Alfonsin asserted Argentina's right to the Malvinas Islands and denounced the permanent tense atmosphere created by Great Britain's colonial presence in the South Atlantic, which is maintained by force and constant threat.

In a speech tonight at the City Hall during a dinner party to fete UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Alfonsin said that Argentina continues to aspire to overcoming the differences that separate us from the United Kingdom despite the intransigency maintained so far by the U.K. Government.

After praising the good-offices mission carried out by Perez de Cuellar in the Malvinas conflict, a mission which represents a guarantee of diplomatic wisdom and equity to the Argentine Government and people, he noted that a change of attitude is taking place in vast sectors of the British political and public circles, which are becoming aware of Argentina's true desire to solve this conflict. Alfonsin also noted that those sectors are beginning to consider the historical and political need for the United Kingdom to finally acknowledge Argentina's historical, geographical, cultural, and political rights to the islands. At the same time, he stated that we are absolutely willing to guarantee the interests of the island's current inhabitants.

In addition to the Malvinas, which Argentina inherited from Spain, Alfonsin mentioned the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands as being part of the critical focus that directly affects the zone and once again condemned Great Britain's colonial presence, which started with the illegal occupation by force and fortification of the islands. The president also condemned the exaggerated military presence in the archipelago, the possibility of introducing nuclear arms into the zone, and the maintenance of the so-called exclusion zone, which he termed illegitimate. Alfonsin stated that all all this allows the dangerous possibility of extra-regional conflicts being transferred to our part of the world.

Elsewhere in his speech, Alfonsin said that world peace is at stake in view of the arms race. He noted that international political order is not only becoming an increasingly military strategic order but it is also becoming more dependent on the world economic order. He said that this is related to the fact that we can currently maintain that peace as well as security can be affected by the great imbalance between rich and developing countries.

The president went on to appeal for speeding up the necessary change of the economic, financial, and commercial system that prevails in the world because, he said, the gap between the North and the South will become an insurmountable abyss. He warned that the most serious thing is that the northern democracies seem to have adopted a status-quo policy designed to avoid any changes by the tactic of delaying issues, a tactic that becomes increasingly inappropriate in keeping with the world situation.

Regarding the foreign debt problem, he said that it can no longer be considered a banking issue because it hinders economic development and causes social backwardness which, sooner or later, will threaten domestic peace, civilized coexistence, and the consolidation of the democratic government norms that we would like to prevail in our continent.

Alfonsin reiterated that in order to overcome the foreign debt crisis it is necessary to initiate a political dialogue that will prevent Latin America from belonging to a region whose future is established by the international financiers' manipulations. Further on, Alfonsin expressed support for the Contadora Group's efforts to seek, through consultations and negotiations, a lasting solution to the Central American crisis and recalled the appeal by Argentina and nine other countries to strengthen the role played by the United Nations and especially by the Security Council.

Alfonsin went on to say that Argentina has a single domestic and foreign policy and that it desires peace for the region and the nations. In this sense, he noted the appeal made by the Group of Six to stop the arms race and seek nuclear disarmament, which is contained in the New Delhi Declaration of May 1984.

SOURROUILLE STEPS DOWN AS GROUP OF 24 PRESIDENT

PY090157 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1702 GMT 8 Apr 86

[By Alejandro Lomuto]

[Text] Washington, 8 Apr (TELAM) -- Argentine Economy Minister Juan Vital Sourrouille today reiterated his country's commitment to the objective of achieving more symmetry and equality in international economic relations, and said that little progress was made toward meeting this objective in 1985.

On passing the presidency of the Group of 24, which he held since April 1985, to Ethiopian Finance Minister Tesfaye Dinka, Sourrouille criticized the developed countries' weak political will and lack of vision to promote a common cooperation effort to resume growth and strengthen the faltering international solidarity.

In the first of the three speeches that he plans to deliver in Washington this week, Sourrouille said that the assessment made 1 year ago, when he took over the presidency of the Group of 24, included correct, consistent, and clear evaluations that were submitted to several international forums. He stressed that the viewpoints of the developing countries are now more consistent and enjoy wider acceptance. He added that it was possible to change the traditional criteria because such viewpoints were understood, although at the slow pace of economic diplomacy.

Among the most significant topics in the assessment issued by the Group of 24, Sourrouille recalled the impressive situation in the African countries south of the Sahara Desert, the stagnation and reduction of economic assistance and official development aid, and the abnormal direction of the world financial flow, which is going from the developing to the developed countries. He added that there is also the incomprehensible delay in opening the doors leading to a final solution to the foreign debt problem, and the additional difficulties stemming from the increasingly stronger protectionist barriers set by the industrialized countries.

Sourrouille pointed out that a realistic assessment reveals that progress has been achieved in just a few areas, despite the fact that the Group of 24 supports unquestionable technical formulas and cherishes the most noble aspirations of world peace and justice.

SOVIET MARITIME DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY080344 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0140 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (EFE) -- A delegation of senior officials of the Soviet Maritime Fleet arrived today in Buenos Aires to discuss with their Argentine counterparts the status of their bilateral agreement on maritime transport. The delegation is led by Boris Pavlovich Trunov, deputy minister in the Maritime Fleet Ministry; who will meet in the next few hours with Pedro Trucco, the Argentine under secretary for river and maritime transportation.

This will be the fourth round of consultative negotiations, which will also be attended by representatives of Argentine private enterprises.

The other members of the Soviet delegation are: Aleksandr Petrovich Vislykh, deputy chief of Glavflot; O. A. Savin, deputy director for Baltic navigation; A. I. Koltipin, chairman of Sovfrakht [last two names and titles as received]; and two officials of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

HEALTH MINISTER RESIGNS, REPLACEMENT APPOINTED

PA100335 Paris AFP in Spanish 0259 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (AFP) -- Argentine Health and Social Action Minister Aldo Neri resigned today, and Energy Secretary Conrado Storani was appointed to replace him, it was officially announced. Neri's resignation is the seventh resignation in Raul Alfonsin's cabinet since he took over in December 1983.

Although the reasons for the resignation are not known, authorized spokesmen feel it is linked to the president's decision of convoking the workers unions to compare at the Economic and Social Conference the differences between the government's plan and the unions' proposal on socio-economics issues, to possibly prevent the general strike of 36 to 48 hours scheduled for 24 and 25 April.

ALFONSIN ASKS UNIONS TO JOIN DIALOGUE

PY100311 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2117 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin today called on the Argentine workers to participate in the meeting of the Economic and Social Conference to discuss the government policies and the 26-point workers' proposal.

The president said: One side could be wrong, but somehow it is necessary to find a solution. He added: I am making this announcement without having consulted with the government advisors or even the ministers because I have a hunch. Sometimes I act like that and sometimes one must act like that. President Alfonsin made this statement in the military sector of the Jorge Newberry Metropolitan Airport while waiting for the arrival of Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi.

Asked about the strike scheduled by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] for 24 and 25 April, the president said: I believe that we Argentines are not going to get anywhere that way. Here we have a democratic and constitutional government, a government of the Argentine people. He added: I am sure that all of us want to work for democracy, because only in democracy will it be possible to win our liberation, overcome dependence, and preserve human dignity by respecting freedom. Thus, it is everyone's duty to preserve and strengthen it. I believe the dangerous path of confrontations should be avoided. He then said he believes it is absolutely essential that we learn from each other and that we become aware of each other's position, but on the basis that no one is trying to defeat anyone and that no one is against Argentina.

After calling upon the CGT to engage in a dialogue within the socioeconomic conference, Alfonsin stressed that we want to give an answer to the social demands. He added: How could we feel otherwise, any politician wants that! We believe the answer will come through what we are doing, because we still have to overcome other major economic problems. The president said that the administration also has its own proposal. Instead of shouting, let us discuss and find paths, solutions. Let the Argentine workers, businessmen, and government sit at a table to see how we can solve all these problems that should not serve to divide us or to weaken the national effort, because we have to make this effort with the certainty that we will find the solutions that the nation seeks.

FINANCE MINISTER DEPARTS FOR WASHINGTON

PY091532 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Finance Minister Juan Cariaga yesterday departed for Washington, where he will explain the Bolivian economic situation to the MF. Bolivia and the IMF have signed a letter of intent by which Bolivia will get a $57 million in stand-by credit to finance the government's economic stabilization plan. This loan is tied to congressional approval of the national budget and the tax reform. The two drafts are currently being discussed in Congress. Nationalist Democratic Action, [ADN] the majority party in Congress, publicly stated its opposition to the tax reform, and it is felt that this bill will not be passed.

GARCIA MEZA TRIAL SUSPENDED, TO RESUME NEXT WEEK

PY091832 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] The Supreme Court has decided that the trial of former President Luis Garcia Meza will continue next week, as soon as some problems related to the bias of certain justices, claimed by the plaintiffs' lawyers, are ironed out. Our correspondent from Sucre reports the following:

[Begin relay] As we reported earlier, the initial phase of the trial of former President Luis Garcia Meza, during which the statements of the defendant are heard, has been suspended until 14 April because lawyers of the plaintiffs have requested the disqualification of two justices, including Supreme Court President Guillermo Caballero.

According to the timetable the court was supposed to hear the testimony of Colonel Luis Arce Gomez on 10 April, and it is being said that he may have arrived in Sucre already. The two justices whose disqualification was requested this morning rejected the accusation, stating in their rebuttal that they never received any benefits or presents from Garcia Meza. Therefore, there are no grounds for their disqualification, which they flatly refused.

The lawyers of the Bolivian Labor Confederation [one of the plaintiffs in the suit] immediately challenged the ruling of the justices and the Supreme Court now has 10 days to decide on the matter. [passages indistinct] If the challenge meets with no objections the trial may be resumed on 14 April. [end relay]

ARRESTS, INJURIES REPORTED DURING NATIONAL STRIKE

PY191430 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Throughout the country, workers have complied with the stike organized yesterday by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB]. Heavy police and military control was particularly obvious on the streets where labor union headquarters and the San Andres University are located.

The workers were unable to stage a scheduled rally at San Francisco Plaza because the police cordoned off the entire sector and broke up groups of approaching demonstrators using tear gas.

According to Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy, the strike was a total failure because in the interior it was not complied with. The minister reported that 50 people were arrested, 35 in La Paz and 15 in other districts. He added that a policeman and a civilian were injured at Plaza Alonso de Mendoze in La Paz.

Meanwhile, the COB reported that several workers were arrested by Interior Ministry security ortanizations. Those arrested include a law school professor and the executive secretary of the La Paz University Student Federation. The COB added that several workers were injured by tear gas bombs and rubber bullets at San Francisco Plaza, [name indistinct] (Vita Laboratories) and El Alto-La Paz highway. It also promised a full list of injured and arrested persons later today. Walter Delgadillo, secretary general of the COB made the following statement to Panamericana:

[Begin recording] [Delgadillo] We were surprised to see sectors that we never expected to participate in the strike. This means that this problem involving teachers, education, salaries, and decent jobs is everyone's problem. On the other hand the repression unleashed by the govenment and the police was truly brutal. We know of children being teargassed in their mothers' arms, and of course they fainted. This happened because the police do not understand the situation, and because they, too, are facing the same problems. [sentence as heard]

In general, I would say that this new instance in the national mobilization plan has helped convince the workers that change is the only hope.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you know anything about arrests?

[Delgadillo] We know of the arrest of Comrade David Zapata of the Departmental Labor Confederation [COD], and I have received several reports of arrested university students. I hope we will be able to provide a more detailed information of the situation later. [end recording]

Meanwhile the Human Rights Commission, the Social Commission of El Alto Parish, the Federation of Neighborhood Committees, and other organizations released a communique reporting that police personnel and Tarapaca Regiment troops used violence to break up a demonstration of parents, teachers, and students who were blocking the La Paz-El Alto highway.

The communique, signed by Carlos (Delehur), Mauricio Cosan and others, states that at 0900 the police, after running out of rubber pellets, started firing their guns, and asked for reinforcements from the Tarapaca Regiment. The reinforcements arrived at the scene fully armed and equipped with armored vehicles, small tanks, and personnel carriers.

The federation of La paz teachers has released a list of injured persons who were treated at public hospitals. These persons were injured during the demonstrations that took place in La Paz. These persons are: Johnny Maita, 17, student; Mireya Echazu, 53, teacher; Luis Flores, student; Rene Maines, 23, university student.

It was also reported that several other injured persons were given first aid at the university hospital. The teachers will hold a general meeting at 0900 this morning to discuss aspects related to the problems they are having with the government.

SARNEY, VENEZUELA'S LUSINCHI DISCUSS BOLIVIA

PY100156 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Brasilia, 9 Apr (EFE) -- Brazilian and Venezuelan Presidents Jose Sarney and Jaime Lusinchi today expressed their willingness to cooperate for the democratic stability of Bolivia and to contribute to solving its serious economic crisis. Lusinchi held a meeting with the Brazilian president at the Brasilia air base during a 1 and 1/2-hour stopover on his way to Buenos Aires.

Ambassador Rubens Ricupero reported that the Bolivian issue was part of the open agenda during the brief meeting held by the two presidents. According to Ricupero the two presidents agreed on the need "to make an effort to help Bolivia" within the framework of cooperation proposed by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The proposal made by Perez de Cuellar is to establish a special $150-million cooperation fund for Bolivia.

FUNARO ELECTED REGIONAL PRESIDENT OF GROUP OF 24

PY092046 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Finance Minister Dilson Funaro has been elected president of the Latin American sector of the so-called Group of 24. This group is made up of developing nations. Its objective is to coordinate the positions of its member nations to face the IMF and the World Bank. The Brazilian minister was elected at the meeting being held in Washington.

GHANAIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY100355 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo Network in Portuguese 0300 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Ghanaian Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah has arrived in Brazil, where he will meet President Jose Sarney and Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre. Asamoah brings a message from Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings, expressing thanks for the seizure of the Panamanian-flag ship Norbistor, which was manned by 18 mercenaries and carried 18 tons of arms and ammunition that were to be used to overthrow the Ghanaian Government.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH ITALY -- Brazil and Italy today signed an agreement on cooperation in the communications sector. The document was signed today in Brasilia by Italian Posts and Telecommunications Minister Antonio Gava and Brazilian Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Bagalhaes. [Summary] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Apr 86 PY]

BISHOPS REQUEST REVISION OF CONSTITUTION

PY080305 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Chilean bishops have requested that the government review the current national judicial state. They requested the full application of justice in the cases of missing, murdered, and tortured people. They also expressed their belief that this will be a hard and painful year. During their plenary assembly, the bishops approved the itinerary for Pope John Paul II during his visit to Chile. In a declaration entitled Justice or Violence, the bishops point out that the country is still being affected by violence and they recall the case of aggression against Carabineros, the murders of a political leader and a student, as well as the disproportionate repressions during demonstrations. The declaration, read by Bishop Pinera, states that these were some of the events in a long chain of actions that promote death and destruction throughout the country.

[Begin Pinera recording] It is thought that this will be a difficult and painful year. We wish that no more blood of martyrs be spilled in Chile. We want peace as a result of justice. We expect complete justice regarding the cases of missing, murdered, and tortured people. It is not enough to simply say that justice is slow but sure. Justice that is not exercised when it is needed is unfair; it erodes social coexistence and does not respond to the needs of the victims. The lack of clarification of several political crimes has created an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust that has given rise to tension and hatred that harms all Chileans. God wants justice and truth without ambiguities, otherwise it will be very difficult to attain a reconciliation. [end recording]

In their declaration, the bishops add that they identify with the anguish and hopes of all the people. We are aware, they say, of the appeals for justice and against violence which are so loud, that if we chose to shut up and not speak, the rocks would speak in our place, and the Lord would call us bad priests. The bishops also express the need to review the 1980 political Constitution:

[Begin Pinera recording] Besides the current problem of justice, we believe that the current judicial state requires serious revision. This means touching on the sensitive subject of the 1980 Constitution and the political laws. We believe that the time has come to study this situation. It is necessary for the Chilean people to become aware that in the future they will be able to organize their civil coexistence according to the wishes of the large majorities. This is the way to start on the road to peace to overcome the violence that threatens to destroy our country. As time passes, deterioration become worse and the consequences may be very serious for the country. [end recording]

The bishops added that no one who really wishes to serve his brothers from a position of authority can be deaf to the appeal for peace. The declaration ends by inviting the citizens to assume their moral and civil responsibilities.

Changing the subject, the archbishop of La Serena reported that the bishops approved Pope John Paul II's itinerary. The final project will be ready in 15 days when it will be sent to the Holy See for final approval. Finally, Bishop Pinera reported that the bishops decided to support the position of mortgage holders, considering the serious social problem created by their situation. They did not give details on how they will help this sector.

Junta on Bishops' Declaration

PY091433 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] The government will have to be more firm in preventing terrorism, Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro said this afternoon, referring to the abduction of Carabineros Corporal German Ovando Rodriguez. Meanwhile Air Force General Fernando Matthei said that the authorities are at a disadvantage against audacious groups, which at any time can decide to murder someone in his own home. Gen Matthei ruled out, however, the possibility of imposing a state of siege in the country. In turn, Adm Merino was questioned about the petition by the Chilean bishops for a review of the current legal system. Merino said that the episcopal conference has the right to say what it thinks, but that does not mean that it is speaking the word of God. Questioned on the same subject, Gen Matthei did not wish to comment but he admitted that the executive and legislative branches are at a real deadlock regarding the law on the political parties. After a Government Junta session, Adm Merino was asked about the kidnapping of Carabineros Corporal German Ovando Rodriguez this morning in Las Condes neighborhood.

[Begin Merino recording] Well, I believe that, like any Chilean citizen, the episcopal conference has the right to say what it thinks, but that does not mean it is speaking the word of God. It has (?authority) in religious matters but not in politics because that is not its (?field). [end recording]

Merino was then asked about the bishops' petition in their document entitled Justice or Violence requesting the revision of the current political system as laid out in the 1980 Constitution.

[Begin Merino recording] The only thing I can say is that the violence and brutality of the Communists, MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] members, and all the undesirable citizens of this country will not let us live in peace. Therefore, we will have to act more firmly. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Questioned on the same subject, Gen Matthei refused to comment but said that the studies on the Constitution must be very well evaluated.

[Begin Matthei recording] Any study about the Constitution would have to be clearly considered and evaluated for all its advantages and disadvantages before I could give an opinion. This is not a matter that can be treated lightly so I will not express any opinion about it. [end recording]

The bishop's document also requested the revision of the political laws. Asked about this, Gen Matthei admitted that there is a real deadlock betwen the legislative and executive branches.

[Begin Matthei recording] The problem does not lie in the four legislative commissions, but rather between the legislative and executive branches, and you know this very well. Therefore, I do not know but personally, I believe that we must wait to see how this develops. We are at a real impasse. We cannot deny this fact. [end recording]

Changing the subject, Gen Matthei regretted the kidnapping of Carabinero Corporal German Ovando Rodriguez and he admitted that the authorities are restricted from applying more rigid measures.

[Begin recording] [Matthei] We regret very much what happened to the Carabinero. There naturally is a great concern about it. Studying the internal order of the country, however, is not our matter, it corresponds to the government.

[Unidentified reporter] [word indistinct] the bishops also stated that we are entering in an irreversible atmosphere of violence as demonstrated by the murder of slum dwellers leader Simon (Yevenes) and the abduction of the Carabinero. Do you believe we are approaching an escalation of violence?

[Matthei] Well, you can clearly see that this is not the case but there are people who are clearly leading us to this point. It is curious that when these people are captured the Vicariate of Solidarity lawyers show up en masse to defend them. Therefore, in a certain manner I do not completely understand the problem.

[Reporter] What [words indistinct] measures could the general authorities adopt to prevent this?

[Matthei] What can be done? Do you want a state of seige or something of the sort to be declared? We are at a disadvantage. All the decent people who wish to work and maintain order are at a disadvantage against any audacious group of people that at a given moment may decide to murder someone in his home. [end recording]

In turn, Carabineros General Director General Rodolfo Stange regretted the latest actions against a member of his organization.

[Begin recording] [Stange] [in progress]...we are the first they find in uniform complying with our duty of caring for the population and therefore of course they want us to suffer for protecting the people.

[Reporter] Has any special measure been adopted in face of these attacks?

[Stang] Of course. [end recording] After an ordinary session of the government Junta in the Diego Portales Building today, all the Junta members condemned the wave of violence affecting the country.

Gen Leigh Praises Bishop

PY091816 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Air Force General Gustavo Leigh Guzman, retired, formerly a member of the Government Junta, has praised the Chilean Bishops' appeal for a review of the nation's legal system and for justice in the country. General Leigh believes that the declaration issued by the Chilean Episcopal Conference was necessary, important, and timely.

[Begin Leigh recording] The bishops are very aware of the abnormal things that have happened in Chile over the last few years. This is why they have publicly requested that measures aimed at reconciliation be adopted urgently. This is not begging, but an urgent request through which they openly warn of the consequences that may result from the growing division between the government and the citizenry. [end recording]

General Leigh also referred to what he calls a parallel problem.

[Begin Leigh recording] It is surprising how some middle-grade military officers have made some statements openly disapproving of political activities in Chile. Perhaps they are doing so on the basis of the recently issued edict restricting the right to hold meetings.

Some middle-grade officers and even subordinates create a contradiction when they express political opinions even though they do not participate in political activities. No one understands this contradiction and, therefore some political parties have issued official statements in reaction to the declarations on current political events made by military officers as individuals. This is an unusual situation not seen before in Chile, and it is happening when violence is escalating. Unfortunately, violence escalated recently and the government is not adopting measures to resolve this situation. [end recording]

General Leigh said that the visit of the interior and justice minister to the Supreme Court's president was an insubstantial gesture.

[Begin Leigh recording] It is a repetition of the same old movie that Chileans tired of seeing a long time ago. Personally, I absolutely refuse to believe anything that the government says. It has promised so much regarding the institutional laws, but it has practically done nothing about them. Thirteen years of government have passed and still there are no electoral registration books. Now, the interior minister is taking -- I don't understand why -- a draft bill to the Supreme Court president to request his opinion. This is totally unheard of in legislative practice. [end recording]

General Leigh thus believes that submitting a bill to the Supreme Court president is not in order.

FINANCE MINISTER PREPARES FOR DEBT RENEGOTIATION

PY091456 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Contracts restructuring the Chilean debt will be signed this weekend in New York. The new contracts total about $.5 million. This represents 56 percent of the Chile foreign debt [word indistinct] in the last 3 years. This information was disclosed in a press conference by Hernan Somerville, the person in charge of renegotiating the foreign debt. Somerville is part of a delegation headed by Finance Minister Hernan Bucci and Central Bank President Henrique Seguel, which will be leaving for New York. Moreover, Somerville noted that Chile has its foreign debt refinanced until 1987, including the debt owed to U.S. creditor banks. This means that the Chilean foreign debt is restructured up to 1987.

HEALTH MINISTER RECEIVES PRC AMBASSADOR

PY091710 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] PRC Ambassador Huang Shikang emphasized the importance of cooperation with Chile during a meeting with Health Minister Winston Chinchon. The PRC ambassador pointed out that medicine is an important field for cooperation. He talked about the fruitful results of PRC-Chilean relations and the upcoming seminar [words indistinct] on acupuncture. He said that the cooperation between Chile and the PRC in the economic, sports, and cultural fields is very important. Regarding trade, he said that last year the PRC imported $150 million worth of Chilean products, making it the PRC's fourth largest trading partner in Latin America.

VENEZUELAN TROOPS REPORTEDLY CROSS BORDER

PA091243 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1213 GMT 9 Apr 86

[German Medina report from Barranquilla]

[Text] Here in Atlantico Department there is concern because of the news that was heard in the past few hours regarding Venezuelan troops who reportedly violated our border in the town of Maicao. The information was given to the press by peasants in La Guajira, who have charged that Venezuelan Army personnel reportedly crossed the border into Colombia in the areas known as (El Rancho) and (Mas Ayuda), (Carraisilla) corregimiento, Maicao municipality.

It was reported that Venezuelan Army troops crossed into Colombia with tanks, intimidating the peasants and residents of (El Rancho) and (Mas Ayuda), (Carraisilla) corregimiento. The reasons for this incident are still unknown.

BETANCUR STRESSES NATIONAL CLAIM TO SAN ANDRES

PA091232 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] President Belisario Betancur said yesterday that the issue of marine and submarine delimitation with Nicaragua will be presented for study to the Foreign Ministry's advisory commission. However, the president reiterated that on the issue of sovereignty over San Andres and Providencia Islands there is nothing to clarify with Nicaragua.

President Belisario Betancur stressed to former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen that there is nothing to clarify, define, or discuss with Nicaragua regarding Colombia's sovereignty over San Andres and Providencia. The president made these statements in a letter to Lopez Michelsen, who had criticized Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo. In his letter Betancur said: I believe that you know as well as I do that our sovereignty over the archipelago is established in solid and incontestable legal titles in favor of our nation.

EDITORIAL WARNS OF SPREAD OF SANDINIST THREAT

PA092029 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Apr 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Contadora: How Much Longer?"]

[Excerpts] How much longer will Contadora last? All of the world's democratic force are asking themselves that question as they anxiously follow developments in Central America.

The group, working outside the structures of traditional Latin American organizations, set out to pacify an area that the international subversive organizations singled out to become the powderkeg of the hemisphere. Contadora is intent on achieving its goal. It champions it as the group's very raison d'etre. [sentences as published]

In so doing it has ignore a score of other issues regarding people's human rights, including freedom. No one in Contadora discusses freedom, which must be preserved in Central America. Does the absence of gunfire justify the abuses committed by governments intent on subjecting their people by fierce despotism?

Publicity ploys cannot be the basis for action in international issues. One of Contadora's main problems is that it is slow in realizing this. The documents it issues are drafted by many people and use the polished language of diplomacy that even applies to events in these palm-dotted, tropical latitudes. However, these never go very far when it comes to implementing them because there is a big difference between what the Sandinists say and what they do.

We see then that Contadora spent years discussing the issue of a handful of foreign military advisers, when the name, address, and occupation of the few that have really worked in the area are a secret to no one. However, the thousands of agitators, mercenaries, military instructors, youth indoctrinators, and army chieftains who arrive in Nicaragua attempting to pass for teachers, cultural advisors, health specialists, and volunteer harvest hands are not even mentioned. This problem surfaced before in El Salvador, and the results of distorting the nature of the problem and its handling are there for all to see.

Something along those lines can happen in connection with the assistance afforded to the conflicting parties. While heavy sums of money and large amounts of human and military resources are pouring into Nicaragua, making it the champion of the arms race in this area, the pharisaical international opinion, well manipulated, pretends to be scandalized by the attempts to hand over funds to the enemies of Sandinism. Everyone is aware of the figures and the use they will be put to. However, because the appropriateness of giving the funds is viewed through the eyes of the world press, attention is distracted while shipments arrive with all kinds of weapons to consolidate the Nicaraguan Government as it faces the enemies it made for itself because it attempts to suppress freedom in its own land.

When the corrupt and bloodthirsty Somoza dictatorship fell, the world turned its gaze toward Nicaragua and thought that the country had been won over in the name of freedom. That is why the deception has been so great. We pray to God the problem does not get worse, kindled by diplomatic moves that help Nicaragua become the sponsor of violence in this hemisphere.

Columbia is one of the possible inheritors of the conflicts Nicaragua exports. There is even an aggravating circumstance: The same country that is currently arming itself to the teeth has set a claim on a portion of our territory. Colombia's foreign policies must be drafted with these problems in mind. The country's vital interests must not be forgotten.

BETANCUR SAYS NOTHING STOPS SEARCH FOR PEACE

PA091601 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Apr 86 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] Florencia, 5 Apr -- President Belisario Betancur has stated here that neither skepticism, criticism that is explainable by the electoral campaign, nor any obstacle will make him stop his search for peace in Colombia and in sister nations, because their peace is also Colombia's peace.

The president spoke in San Francisco Square on the occasion of the establishment of the diocese of Caqueta. He said that the national rehabilitation plan is being consolidated in 1986 and that 36-billion pesos worth of projects are being carried out. He said that added to the investments made in 1983, they total almost 70 billion pesos, without taking into account the internal and foreign credits, contributions of the regional governments, and direct support from the community.

He stressed that the country is successfully culminating the negotiations with the World Bank to guarantee approximately $200 million in international credits which will signify the total culmination of the objectives of the plan.

[Betancur said:] This afternoon we will sign the first large loan from the international commercial banks. After the crisis, no Latin American country had been granted a $1 billion loand, in other words, 200 billion pesos that we will leave for projects to benefit the country.

The president said that "we are reaping the fruits of peace" and he added: Caqueta, the middle Magdalena region, the Uraba area of Antioquia, the vast regions of the Cordoba mountains are examples just as the rest of the regions of the country are examples despite the sporadic outbreaks of violence.

"Peace does not mean the total elimination of conflict nor the definite eradication of violent conduct. Peace must be viewed as a process of gradual victories and advances and setbacks, with the certainty that a final triumph awaits us in the consolidation of sure tranquillity. That sure and respectable tranquillity means knowing that the person next to us or in front of us is not our enemy but our friend. Peace is the only path that makes it possible for a human being to fully and honorably develop and to see in his hands the tools that will plant seeds and produce fruit rather than the tolls that destroy and kill because fruits are more beautiful than death."

ACCORD SCORES STROESSNER'S 1 APRIL SPEECH

PY092218 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 8 Apr 86 p 10

[Text] The National Accord, whose coordinating board recently assessed the 1 April message delivered by the president of the Republic to the National Congress, has stated that the presidential message is not in line with national reality and completely ignores critical political and socioeconomic problems. The document issued by the National Accord analyzes not only the content of the speech but also the remarks the chief of state made publicly to national authorities and military chiefs who later greeted him at Government Palace. The message emphasizes the peace, tranquillity, and democracy that "the country is allegedly enjoying."

The speech expresses no regret about the "permanent state of siege, which is a negation of real peace, the lack of liberties, of peaceful meetings, of association for legal purposes, or about the lack of freedom of press and information." The document adds that the speech expresses no regret either about "the exile of Paraguayans, the totalitarian identification of the government, Armed Forces, and the officialist party or the sectarization caused by the compulsory affiliation with the Colorado Party of all public administrative, judicial, military, or police members. It expresses no regret, of course, about the systematic violation of human rights the Paraguayan people are enduring."

On assessing the scope of the government analysis of the economic situation, the document states that it has become "a common practice to escape from reality, especially from the economic crisis that is hitting the country and hurting production, the inflation generated by the public finances which undermine the real salary and the income of the peasant-farmer; and the imbalance in the balance of payment and public foreign debt problems."

It adds that the presidential message does not mention contraband, "the robbery or embezzlement of public funds, or the illegal purchase of dollars at a preferential rate. Last year the president promised to repress dishonesty and delinquency in public administration. But this year he did not say a word about the ethical-economic cancer of corruption growing within the power structures."

The opposition coalition warns in its document about what it calls an unusual and alarming fact: "The president of the Republic, in remarks made after his speech, hinted about the reactivation of the sadly remembered urban guard [Colorado party militia that acted as night street partol during 1947 Civil War] and labeled, with unacceptable irony, a notorious bloodhound, a beater of students as 'moderator' of the Catholic University." The document adds that "Stroessner's unfortunate impromptu remarks, while damaging the image of the office of the chief of state, could provoke the division of the citizens into paramilitary repressors and the general population, who are mostly against the current system."

PRESIDENT ON IMF LOANS, CONTADORA MEETING

PY091704 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Excerpt] A bronze bust of the late Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, founder of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA], was dedicated at the National Congress today.

Following the ceremony President Alan Garcia walked back to Government Palace, where he said that Peru will not pay more than 10 percent of its export revenues to its foreign creditors. He also mentioned the IMF deadline of Monday, 14 April, noting that Peru is an independent country, and his upcoming visit to Uruguay.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Recently the president of the Central Reserve Bank met with one of the highest-ranking IMF officials. What information do you have in this regard?

[Garcia] The IMF has two aspects: In the first place it is a bank to which we owe money, and in the second, it is an organization that supervises and interferes with the governments of poor economies. We have rejected the presence of an IMF mission, the formulas of the IMF that had been implemented during the past few years in Peru, the entire liberal theory imposed by the IMF, and we are not going to allow anyone to tell us how to govern. Moreover, the IMF is a bank like any other, to which we owe money. It will have to accept our decision and agree not to collect all we owe but only what Peru can pay. This is what Mr Figueroa, president of the Central Reserve Bank, is going to propose. He will see if they will accept a restricted, small payment, because this is what we can afford. Our creditors, the banks and the IMF, think that Peru has a lot of reserves, that during the past months it has managed to accumulate a lot of reserves. To a certain degree they are right. Peru has more dollars than it had on 28 July, but these dollars are our vital reserves. Oil prices are dropping every day, the copper prices remain very low, and so does the price of silver and all the raw materials we sell. Our reserves are our only financial cushion for the future.

[Reporter] How much can we pay?

[Garcia] This figure depends on negotiations with each creditor bank.

[Reporter] Is the amount that would be paid...

[Garcia interrupting] Overall and regarding our foreign debt we can only pay 10 percent, as has been proposed by the government.

[Reporter] Is this what would be paid on 14 April, the IMF deadline?

[Garcia] This business of deadlines and imperative conditions is very relative at this point. Peru is an independent and sovereign country, and we cannot accept deadlines like those set for insolvent debtors. A great political problem, a great historical problem lies behind the foreign debt problem.

This is not an accounting or commercial problem or a matter of seeing how much you will pay me, and if you don't pay me I will embargo you. This is the proposal, and this is the historic step that Peru must take. Many say we are running the risk of remaining isolated, but I wonder: When have we not been alone? Others say we run the risk of not being granted loans, and I answer: The loans have always represented just a few more dollars than we paid to obtain those loans. During the past few years Latin America has been affected by a spiral of indebtness. They lend me 100 so that I may be able to pay 95. But the interest rate in that 100 is higher than the 95 we owed previously, and next year they will lend me 110 so I can pay the previous 100, and so on and so forth. We must take a historic step. It has its costs, but we have to take it. This has been our proposal since 28 July, and we are determined that Peru, in the first place will be independent of loan receipts and, in the second that it not be faced with those alternatives.

[Reporter] In the international sphere, Mr President, there is talk about the possible failure of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group's meeting in Panama. What is your opinion on this problem?

[Garcia] Well, in domestic policy as well as in international policy patience is the greatest virtue; from the historical point of view it is also the greatest virtue. Societies and people are not subject to processes, and in order to establish an integration process and to pacify Central America we need a lot of time. This entails making progress and suffering setbacks. The problem is that when some meeting does not reach outstanding agreements, some sectors of the media, especially of the international media, state that it has been failure and that the Latin American effort to seek peace in Nicaragua, Honduras, and all Central America is failing. I think that it is a historic task that will take a long time. For the first time Latin America is united regarding the same objective: to prevent the United States from interfering in Nicaragua. [end recording]

WAGNER, CAPUTO, IGLESIAS COMMENT ON CONTADORA

PY091510 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Alan Wagner returned to Peru this morning after attending a 3-day meeting of the Contadora Group in Panama. Minister Wagner arrived accompanied by Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias.

Taking advantage of the technical stopover of their plane, the foreign ministers held a press conference at Air Base No 8, where they pointed out that the Contadora Group's peace-keeping efforts will continue and noted the cooperation of Minister Alan Wagner during a difficult point of the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Wagner] We have held a meeting during which we thoroughly studied all aspects of the Central American problem. This meeting, for the first time, has granted the [Central] American countries the opportunity to thoroughly discuss their respective points of view concerning the crisis they are experiencing with the eight foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and the Support Group. We believe that this discussion in itself has been very important in seeking ways to continue making progress. We reassert that the diplomatic negotiation process, sponsored by the Contadora Group, is the only path to a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Central American crisis.

We have invited the five Central American governments to a meeting on 6 June in Panama to conclude officially the negotiations over the text of the Contadora act, and, as a consequence, we have invited those countries to immediately resume negotiations over the only two aspects of this peace treaty still pending, that is, the control and reduction of arms and international military maneuvers. We hope to receive an answer to this invitation within the next 8 days. We also reiterate that to achieve peace in the region all parties and countries linked to the region or having interests there must refrain from granting aid to the irregular forces or insurrectional movements operating in any of the countries or that are trying to disturb or destabilize the constitutional order of the Latin American countries through force or any type of terrorism. We, foreign ministers, welcome the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican Government's initiative requesting the establishment of a civilian mission to investigate and control border conflicts between the two countries, and we want to point out that with the participation of representatives of the Contadora Group and Support Group and, naturally, with the participation of the two countries that made the petition, an inspection of the common border shared by Nicaragua and Costa Rica will be carried out during the month of April. The purpose of this inspection will be to establish the needs of the civilian mission to form it as soon as possible.

[Unidentified reporter] Messrs foreign ministers, how do you view the fact that, despite the Contadora and Support Groups' peace-keeping efforts, Nicaragua has decided not to sign the peace treaty on 6 June?

[Caputo] We answered that question during the meeting we held. I believe, however, that Contadora -- and this is our spirit -- and the Support Group must continue to carry out its renewed efforts for peace. It would be wrong to say that we are closer to peace now than we were a few weeks ago. This is not so. However, it would also be wrong to assert that Contadora and its Support Group have failed. Eight Latin American countries, in a joint effort, have made and will continue to make efforts to prevent the horror of war from spreading to Central America -- that is, from worsening in Central America.

Upon arriving in Peru, I want to take the opportunity to praise the outstanding cooperation and contribution made by the Peruvian diplomatic delegation during these negotiations. The Peruvian representatives contributed with exceptional diplomatic effort and imagination in proposing a transactional solution at a time when we could find no solution. This showed the five Central American countries that the Contadora and the Support Groups have the ability to respond even in the most difficult times. I believe that the countries represented at the meeting voiced gratitude to Minister Wagner for what he has done. Here in Peru, we take our hat off to the great role played by our Peruvian friends, who have given us strength and [words indistinct] a difficult moment. We know that this strength will accompany us.

[Unidentified reporter] Foreign Minister, I would like to hear (?your) opinion of how the U.S. support to the so-called Nicaraguan contras is affecting the [words indistinct] the specific purposes of the Contadora Group's efforts.

[Iglesias] Any type of interference or intervention in the Central American affairs will not lead to peace. This is stated in the communique Foreign Minister Wagner has just read to us. The foreign actions in the region only worsen the conditions through which that region, itself, can achieve overall security and peace. This is my answer to your question. [end recording]

SANGUINETTI CALLS FOR GREATER PRODUCTION

PY080253 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0025 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Apr (EFE) -- President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today called for greater production and defended the need to encourage private enterprise to help overcome the country's economic crisis. In a message carried on radio and television Sanguinetti said that "the country continues to struggle in the midst of very serious problems, but there are favorable prospects in the medium-range" although he warned that "social peace and a peaceful political environment are needed."

The president announced a 27-percent salary increase for public employees and an 85-percent pension increase for retirees, but he pointed out that "if production is not increased, those percentages will not have a lasting effect and we will fail." Sanguinetti added: "We cannot let ourselves get too used to getting the state involved in everything, especially in bankrupt companies which cost a fortune to maintain."

The president insisted on "the need to modernize the state organizations and the production system" and recognized that "we have an extremely large social security system and budget." The president said that in Uruguay there are 532,000 people on retirement: that is practically retired person for every worker. Sanguinetti added: "The state is like a ship: a captain guides it, but the driving force, the motor, is not the state, it is private enterprise." The president said that "public employment cannot be the goal of our youth."

Sanguinetti said that the government has lowered some taxes to create an incentive for the investment of the rural and industrial sectors. He added: "Some people are using slogans to dissuade foreign investment. Without foreign capital we are going to be left alone, isolated and separated from a world moving ahead fast."

Sanguinetti also said that the recent agreement signed by the four political parties represented in Congress to reactivate the economy "is a step that the country should look to with favorable prospects." Sanguinetti labeled as "prudent and realistic" the recent 6-percent fuel increase ordered by the government despite the fall of oil prices on the international market. Uruguay, which has only 3 million inhabitants, owes the international banks $5 billion and has an annual inflation rate of 80 percent.

PERUVIAN SOURCES DISCUSS UPCOMING GARCIA VISIT

PY092057 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Peruvian diplomatic sources have stated that Peruvian President Alan Garcia, whose departure is scheduled for this morning, intends to emphasize the importance of the resurgence of democracy in Uruguay. The sources said that Garcia will hold talks with his Uruguayan counterpart, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, on the foreign debt issue, Uruguayan support for a Peruvian proposal on regional disarmament, the Central American crisis -- both countries are members of the Contadora Support Group -- and an improvement in bilateral relations. Another important question will be increasing bilateral trade, which has been reduced and is currently at a low level. In 1985 Peru imported Uruguayan products worth $4 million and the Peruvian exports to Uruguay barely reached $2 million.

BOMB 'MAY HAVE' CAUSED 31 MARCH PLANE CRASH

AU091932 Paris AFP in English 1916 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] London, April 9 (AFP) -- The March 31 crash of a Mexicana Airlines jet that killed 166 may have been provoked by the explosion of a bomb hidden on board, the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (Ifalpa) said Wednesday. "We have strong indications that it could have been caused by a bomb," Ifalpa President R.H. Smith said here at the opening of the organization's congress.

A similar statement was made in New York by Thomas Ashwood, vice-president of the International Association of Airline Pilots.

Mr. Smith said the Ifalpa, with 66,000 members in 60 countries, was awaiting a report from the Association of Mexican Pilots before forming a definitive opinion. He said he was "disappointed" by the lack of collective international reaction to terrorist acts.

The Ifalpa was said to be considering a boycott of airports whose security is considered by the pilots group to be lax. The Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727, flying from Mexico City to Los Angeles with stops in Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan, crashed into a mountain north of Mexico City shortly after takeoff.

REPORTAGE ON 75TH IPU CONFERENCE, PROPOSALS

Meeting Continues

PA091915 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] The 75th IPU Conference continues in Mexico City. The Mexican delegation participated at yesterday's meeting and proposed to the governments and parliaments of other countries that a world conference on disarmament be held. The Mexican group spoke against apartheid and condemned the weapons trafficking in Central America and the presence of military advisers in that region. It also urged the Central American countries to sign the revised version of the Contadora Document.

The Mexican delegation also approached the issue of terrorism, as did the parliaments of the United States, Portugal, Czechoslovakia, and Lebanon that participated in yesterday's session. Mexico urged all the countries to cooperate jointly to capture, try, and extradite those responsible for terrorist actions in the world.

Meanwhile, Argentine delegate (Balbino Viri) accused the United Kingdom of turning the Malvinas Islands into a stronghold, adding that with its strategic airport it represents a serious threat to the whole continent.

Likewise, Carpio Castillo, Venezuelan representative, strongly criticized President Ronald Reagan's attitude in support of the Nicaraguan contras. The Venezuelan representative said that any armed solution would threaten peace in Central America.

Yesterday's session was presided over by Antonio Riva Palacio, Mexican Senate president.

Cuba's Debt Moratorium Plan

PA090332 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0239 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Apr (EFE) -- Cuba proposed here to the developing countries the annulment, moratorium, immediate suspension of payments or postponement for an indefinite number of years payment of their foreign debt, including interest. The Cuban delegation attending the 75th IPU Conference also proposed that the principle creditor countries assume, before private banks, the debt obligations and interests of those nations that cannot pay.

The Cuban considerations are contained in a draft resolution presented to the assembly meeting here since yesterday with the attendance of legislators from 90 countries. The Cuban group headed by Severo Aguirre del Cristo called "on the firm unity of the developing countries in the face of the foreign debt to struggle to establish a new international economic order and to advance toward forms of integration and regional cooperation at the service of the development and independence of the peoples." It asked the parliaments and governments to work to curb military spending and the exclusive allocation of financial, material, and human resources, thus freeing them for the peaceful socioeconomic development of the peoples. According to the Cuban delegation, the reduction of approximately 12 percent of that military spending will permit the debtor countries to pay their debt and servicing of the debt, while the banks will receive guarantees of their capital affected. 'This measure, in addition to preventing the economic asphyxiation of the debtor countries, will contribute to detente and world peace," in the opinion of the Cuban delegates.

Honduran Deputy on Peace Motion

FL092144 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1430 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 9 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Gilberto Goldstein, deputy of the Honduran National Congress, has said that a motion for a peaceful solution to the Central American problem will be presented at the 75th IPU Conference. The legislator said: We believe in peace, and because of this we are prepared to do whatever is required. He added that peace in Central America is called "Contadora," and the proposal presented is precisely in support of the peace-making group.

Goldstein mentioned that yesterday the final document was about to be signed. The Contadora and Support Groups and four other Latin American representatives expressed their decision to sign the peace document but could not because of Nicaragua's rejection, said the Honduran deputy.

Nicaragua Accepts Amendments

PA100036 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Nicaragua has accepted amendments proposed by Panama to the IPU assembly today to the draft resolution on the Central American crisis. The draft was presented to the forum on Monday, when the session opened. The proposal made by the Panamanian parliamentarians will be voted on by the full assembly tonight.

The amendments basically express support for the basic points of the Guatemala declaration that the IPU approved last weekend in a session attended by representatives of 19 parliaments.

The points involved are respect for the principles of self-determination, nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states, support for pluralistic democracy, rejection of foreign bases, and total respect for human rights. The document also calls for condemnation and rejection of any resolution or action, calling for overt or covert intervention by hegemonic powers, that entail an attack on the sovereignty of the Central American nations.

The Guatemala declaration also emphasizes that special condemnation should be applied to the open intervention by the U.S. Government and sectors of the U.S. Congress in Nicaragua's problem. All of this is reiterated in the Panama proposal.

Rafael Solis, secretary of the Nicaraguan National Congress, expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the proposal made by Panama.

Iraqi Envoy on Peace With Iran

JN090850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Apr (INA) -- Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the Arab and international relations committee of the Iraqi National Assembly, has reiterated Iraq's readiness to accept all the international resolutions to end the Iraq-Iran war through peaceful means. In a speech before the 75th IPU Congerence in Mexico City last night, Hammudi said that Iraq was and is still committed to the UN resolutions and Charter to end the conflict through peaceful, just, and unconditional means to guarantee the two sides' legitimate rights, including national sovereignty and noninterference in domestic affairs. He denounced the Iranian regime's calls for implementing some agreements which serve its interests and entrench the continuation of its aggression against Iraq. He also called for intensified efforts and measures to stop the Iranian invasion of Iraqi territory and to force the Iranian rulers to accept the UN resolutions in this regard.

Hammudi called for the implementation of Article 25 of the UN Charter stipulating the commitment of the member states to implementing the UN Security Council resolutions and to exerting their utmost to do so. He also called for the implementation of Article 24 of the UN Charter authorizing the UN Security Council to settle the international conflicts which threaten world peace and security. He pointed to the Iranian regime's practices and violation of all the international and UN resolutions.

PPS LEADER DECRIES RIGHTIST-U.S. CAMPAIGN

PA091427 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Apr 86 pp 4A, 28A

[Article by Angel Soriano]

[Text] Jorge Cruikshank Garcia, leader of the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), said yesterday that the nationalization of banks and the generalized control of exchange are pretexts used by Mexican rightists in alliance with U.S. imperialism to carry out a campaign to discredit our country and our institutions. He demanded that "the political clergy and its electoral arm, the PAN [National Action Party], which are participating in this crusade against the nation," be called to account.

Accompanied by members of his party's national directorate, Cruikshank said that ultrarightists and ultraleftists will also participate in this action, "which is intended to make an assault on power in 1988."

They have even called on all independent labor union organizations to participate in the 1 May parades, in parallel with the official celebration, to create disorders in order to provoke and create a favorable climate for the destabilization of the country, he said.

To accomplish this, he said, they have placed signs at the principal working centers inviting workers to participate in these actions. This has caused confusion in the labor sector.

That is why the PPS urges the organized working class of the country to reject such provocations and to join in acts of solidarity with the democratic and revolutionary forces, for the benefit of the country and in defense of our institutions, our independence, and our sovereignty.

He said that in cities on the border, U.S. television stations transmit documentaries "in which they insult the country, accuse us of being corrupt and inefficient, and say that everything is rotten in this country and there is no cure for us." This is so serious that President Miguel de la Madrid himself expressed his concern during a speech in Tijuana, where he sounded the alert against the enemies of the Mexican Revolution who intend to violate our sovereignty.

Cruikshank, who was accompanied by Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, Jesus Lujan, and Manuel Fernandez, said with regard to this situation, the PPS has "decided to strengthen all the party's internal activities in order to prepare it and place it on alert in all areas of the country so it may successfully fulfill the duty of organizing the great national, democratic, and patriotic front. And so it may stop those who, from public positions, are promoting a deviation of the Mexican Revolution by advocating the sale of state enterprises and by discrediting the patriotic nationalization of banks and control of exchange. They have thereby played the game of U.S. imperialism and rightist forces."

Likewise, he said that he will conduct five regional meetings throughout the country to inform his followers and the working class of the risks of this campaign to destabilize the country and its institutions, and to commemorate with dignity the universal 1 May celebration of the gains won by the working class.

SENATORS CRITICIZE JESSE HELMS' PUBLIC HEARINGS

FL100048 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0125 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 8 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Today Mexican senators criticized public hearings on Mexico to be held in the United States and asked U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, who called such meetings, to respect the Mexican people.

During a session of the 53d Legislature's Permanent Commission, Silvia Hernandez, senator for the State of Queretaro, said that attitude is only the U.S. far right's excuse to encourage attitudes aimed at creating power groups for the next U.S. elections.

Jesse Helms called the hearings because, according to him, Mexico is a threat to U.S. safety.

Silvia Hernandez said Helms has forgotten that Mexico respects international opinions but does not accept any kind of lesson, especially from a man who represents U.S. ultrarightist tendencies. She noted that Helms' disrespectful action deteriorates the achievement of a mature and intelligent relations between Mexico and the United States.

U.S. 'SUSPICION' OF NICARAGUAN THREAT VIEWED

PA090112 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Apr 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Surprise and Threat"]

[Text] The Mexican ambassador to the United Nations has said that we Mexicans do not consider Nicaragua a threat to our stability, and in this statement the Mexican ambassador has expressed a truth that is axiomatic in our foreign relations, which are based on the self-determination of nations and the sovereignty of states.

Thus, Mario Moya Palencia concludes that "it surprises us" that some sectors of the United States "could really feel threatened by the Sandinist revolutionary process." In this regard, and regardless of what could or could not "surprise" anyone, it is understandable that those sectors should be hypersensitive to everything that could be a threat to the traditional Yankee supremacy on the American continent.

After over a century and a half of the prevalence of the Monroe Doctrine, it is not surprising that many U.S. citizens view the presence of new elements of influence in their Latin American "backyard" with great suspicion, to the extent of creating images and states of mind that transcend reality almost to the point of sociopolitical pathology.

Moya Palencia's point that a great country like the United States, "with its enormous political, economic, and military might," cannot be the victim of a small developing people like Nicaragua is not untrue, but it is important to add that it is not only the presence and the actions of that small country and of its vigorous revolution that are affecting U.S. interests, but also a far greater historical trend to which the Sandinist revolution belongs, along with many other movements, which all together are not only a threat to the stability, of the greatest world power, but which have already undermined that stability in many ways.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY EXTENDED TO 1988

FL100216 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1949 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 9 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Hungary have signed the third protocol of the 1975 trade agreement for the period 1986-1988 aimed at encouraging and stabilizing bilateral relations between the two countries, the Foreign Secretariat has reported.

It indicated that the agreement's objective is for each country to achieve $45 million in export trade. The report added that the protocol was signed by Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor on behalf of the Mexican Government and by Hungarian Ambassador to Mexico Toth.

COLUMNIST CRITIZES REAGAN'S 'ERRATIC' ACTIONS

PA091438 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Apr 86 p 10 a

["Counterpoint" column by Osvaldo Velasquez: "The Panamanian 'Freedom Fighters'"; preceding two words rendered in English throughout]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan refers to the "contras" as "freedom fighters" because they are fighting the Marxist-Leninist dictatorship in Nicaragua. This group has the political, military, moral, and economic backing of the U.S. President, who justifies this by saying that the "freedom fighters" are fighting for human, civil, and political rights in Nicaragua.

On the other hand, those of us in Panama who are fighting in a nonviolent way for the same principles as the Nicaraguan "contras" and can consider ourselves Panamanian "freedom fighters" have as our worst enemy the same U.S. Government that defends liberties in Nicaragua. We shall never forget that as a consequence of the great fraud in May 1984, while we were awaiting the resolution of certain electoral challenges, which in a democratic country could have changed the outcome of the elections, President Reagan was already congratulating the challenged president-elect. With that action, he trampled on those same principles of freedom and democracy that he is now brandishing to defend Nicaragua's "freedom fighters." What is the reason for Reagan's erratic and contradictory actions? Simply that things are not as they appear. Such contradictions do not exist. It is typical of the foreign policy towards our countries.

To a U.S. President, the concepts of liberty and democracy outside his country are coldly demagogic concepts that are used as a well-disguised excuse to intervene against a system of government that is not controlled by the Pentagon or by the State Department. The "liberty and democracy" that the United States desires for countries like Nicaragua and Panama is found and supported in any system of government, be it extreme leftist, extreme rightist, without defined ideologies, or corrupt, as long as it obeys the United States with unconditional docility. We are sure that a government like that of the nine commanders in Nicaragua, which openly violates human rights, would be a progressive and democratic government (as President Carter, of bad memory for Panama, called Torrijos' dictatorship), if it was under the "Pentagon's umbrella." Then the "contras", instead of being "freedom fighters", would be dangerous guerrillas, and they would be fought with the same enthusiasm as they are now being helped.

The worst enemy of Panama's "freedom fighters" has been and continues to be the United States. Because of this, it would be hard for any civic-political movement to achieve an authentic democracy. The Panamanian "freedom fighters" are between the devil and the deep blue sea, between a Marxist-Leninist protected by the USSR, and a corrupt military dictatorship, without a defined ideology, that is protected by the United States.

The United States repeats its mistakes in these aspects of its international policy, which is a mixture of sadism and masochism. The typical evolution of one of these errors is as follows: full economic, military, and political backing is given to a dictatorship that disregards the rights and liberties of its citizens, in exchange for its complete docility. This situation, as a logical reaction, produces in the oppressed peoples an anti-American sentiment, which is exploited by the USSR. Then there is a switch. Now the United States waves the flag of freedom and democracy that it previously ignored, to come out in defense of the nation that has now changed over to the "Kremlin umbrella." This is how communism started in Cuba and Nicaragua, and this is how religious fanaticism started in Iran.

Dictatorships are a splendid anteroom for communism.

That is why the USSR rapidly recognized Ferdinand Marcos' last presidential term of only a few hours in the Philippines, because the fall of that dictatorship would weaken, as has been the case, the position of communist guerrillas in that country.

It is time for the United States to convince itself of something very elemental: Authentically democratic and socially advanced governments are the best barriers against communism.

Meanwhile, the Panamanian "contras," whom President Reagan would not call "freedom fighters," have to face a powerful enemy in search of an authentic democracy: the alliance between our out-of-control and corrupt military and the U.S. Government. The former contributes with its docility; the latter with its economic and military might.

GOVERNMENT WANTS CANAL OPERATING SURPLUS PAYMENTS

PA092108 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 9 Apr 86 p 1 A

[By Jaime Beitia]

[Text] Panama will demand payment of $60 million from annual operating surpluses which the U.S. Government owes under the terms of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. The demand will be made by Panamanian representatives during the meeting to be held by the Panama Canal Commission Board in Washington on Thursday and Friday.

The report was made to MATUTINO by Oyden Ortega Duran, who is a former foreign relations minister and one of the Panamanian members of the Panama Canal Board, who said that a poor country like ours cannot afford the luxury of financing a rich one like the United States. Ortega noted that only a small amount of good faith on the part of the Canal Administration and the U.S. executive branch would be required to meet the obligations to Panama despite the existence of Law 96-70, which he feels should be repealed or amended to conform to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. He added that, as of now, the government should begin formal efforts before congressmen in this regard.

In addition, Ortega said that the Gramm-Rudman amendment, through which budget allocations to the Panama Canal Commission will be cut, will be another subject of discussion at the meeting, which will open tomorrow. Ortega stressed that the Panama Canal Commission has been told categorically that Panama will not permit a reduction in the Panamanian labor force by using this amendment as a pretext.

The Panamanian representative at the Panama Canal Board noted that Panama will insist on a growing participation of Panamanians in top executive positions on the Panana Canal Commission.

This matter was discussed during the latest meeting of the Panama Canal Commission Board, at which it was noted that it is necessary to adjust the personnel regulations, which date back to long before the entry into force of the treaties. Ortega said that this proposal will be technically substantiated this time so that Panamanians will be granted a larger participation and preference in appointments and promotions to key positions in the commission.

It is true, said Ortega, that we have made some progress in this regard, particularly in the field of engineering. However, none of the 15 executives in the Marine, Administrative, Finance, and Administrative Service sections is a Panamanian even though we must be prepare [to fill these positions] during the few years remaining before the year 2000.

He said that repairs to the Canal will be another topic of discussion at the meeting. If the vital installations of the waterway are not maintained to keep them operational, Panama will receive a deteriorated and inefficient Canal in the year 2000, he said. The United States must fulfill its obligation to improve the Canal and turn it over to Panama in good condition. Therefore, we must make the necessary investigations so it will be turned over in an efficient and competitive condition, Ortega said in concluding.

PDC CHARGES GOVERNMENT LINKED TO DRUG TRAFFIC

PA081909 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 8 Apr 86 p 1

[Text] Drug trafficking has been systematically growing in our country, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leadership stated in a communique issued yesterday. According to the PDC statement, the most prominent figures involved in this unlawful activity "have been civilians and officers close to the current regime's top leadership."

"The weapons and drug trafficking could not have grown, let alone reached its current dangerous levels without the tolerance and complicity of that leadership. The trail of silence, coexistence, cover-up, impunity, favoritism, or shared interests, is too long and obvious for any propaganda to deny the national authorities' tolerance or complicity," the PDC document titled "On Drug Trafficking in Panama" said.

The document added that "no single local figure linked to this crime is under arrest, or has been tried or sentenced. Some figures have even had the opportunity to blatantly commit that crime again."

In the communique's final part, the PDC stated that some foreign figures linked to drug trafficking "have been able to meet and operate in our country with the support of the Panamanian Government."

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES LOWER FUEL PRICES

PA070313 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0238 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] The Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic hereby reports to the nation:

The national government, through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has officially ordered a reduction in fuel and diesel prices effective 24 April 1986. After holding talks with all sectors interested, in particular with the industrial and transportation sectors, the national government has decided to make an additional reduction taking into consideration the new price reduction on the crude oil and finished products inventories existing at Refineria Panama and the remaining distribution channels. It should be noted that with these new reductions, the value of the reductions implemented by the national government in all the different oil derivates exceeds $54 million.

	current price	new price
gasoline super	$2.24	$1.98
gasoline super (for public transport)	1.86	1.67
gasoline regular	2.10	1.90
gasoline regular (for public transport)	1.78	1.59
light diesel	1.33	1.19
kerosene	1.20	1.10

We will give you any further information.

COSTA RICA

MONGE SAYS NICARAGUA 'BLOCKED' CONTADORA EFFORTS

PA091456 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has not ruled out the possibility that the Contadora Group is dying. He said that at the meeting held last weekend, the obstacles created by Nicaragua again blocked the group's efforts. Monge said that he believes talks with the United States and Cuba are necessary. It is best not to deceive ourselves, he said. This a reality that goes against the desires of the Central Americans and the will of the Latin Americans. Central America, has become one of the sites of the East-West confrontation. He added that the main obstacle to Contadora's progress is Nicaragua.

ARIAS CONDEMNS ORTEGA'S 'NEGATIVE' ATTITUDE

PA091502 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Statement by President-elect Oscar Arias, read by spokeswoman (Lillieth Brenes); date not given]

[Text] In his message President Ortega states that Salvadoran President Duarte's initiative to promote a domestic dialogue not only in his country but also in Nicaragua is aimed at intervening in Nicaraguan domestic matters. I believe that the Nicaraguan president's opinion is not only mistaken but extremely negative for the cause of peace in Central America.

Nicaraguan foreign policy once again contradicts itself. In the documents issued by the Contadora Group, including the draft document presented in September 1984 -- the draft that Nicaragua said it would accept without deleting a single comma -- the need for a process of reconciliation has always been mentioned. The Caraballeda message, a document that Nicaragua approved in Guatemala through its foreign minister, reiterates the same idea. This means that, at least in public, Nicaragua has accepted all these documents that speak of reconciliation and never described them as interventionists.

It is, therefore, obvious that national reconciliation has been established as one of the measures necessary for peace in Central America. The foreign minister for President Monge's administration has respected this view, and my future foreign minister will also abide by this.

Ortega's idea of describing a proposal for national reconciliation as interventionist must not be viewed as an isolated fact but as part of a well-defined line of international action being developed by Nicaragua. Nicaragua blocked the recent meeting of foreign ministers held in Panama. Nicaragua demonstrated that it is not willing to accept the terms included in the Contadora peace document. We must not forget that for the document to be signed it must include international law. This law would be applied to group actions such as in situ verification and inspection of matters involving security, military forces, democratization, and freedoms. This would mean a political process of plurist democratization which is probably what Nicaragua, and the other countries with similar ideologies, does not want to accept.

Therefore, it is understandable that Nicaragua has adopted (?this stance in rejection of Contadora) after having taken advantage of the mediating effort because of its international propaganda value and to gain time. The real situation was clearly defined in Panama. According to the international opinion, 12 Latin American foreign ministers, including 4 Central American foreign ministers, supported signing the document. Nicaragua was the only country against this and once again demonstrated that it does not have a Central American interest or civic will.

NEW NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

PA091450 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge told Claudia Chamorro Barrios, new Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica, that the country is interested in having good relations with Nicaragua. Claudia Chamorro Barrios presented her credentials this afternoon to President Monge. The new Sandinist ambassador is the daughter of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, murdered Nicaraguan journalist. Chamorro Barrios held the office of adviser, with the rank of minister, at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Havana.

The young diplomat said that she is very happy to be able to represent her country in Costa Rica, a country that is not foreign to her because she lived here when she was in exile.

President Monge recalled that in the late fifties and early sixties Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal was in political exile in Costa Rica. Monge said that he remembered seeing Chamorro Cardenal in 1958 when Chamorro was covering the Costa Rican elections. His daughter, today the new ambassador, recalled that shortly after the elections her father returned to Nicaragua as part of an invading group that was crushed by the Somoza dynasty. Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was arrested following this incident.

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was murdered in an ambush toward the end of Anastasio Somoza's regime.

U.S. TO RECOGNIZE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS

PA090457 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] For the first time in history, the United States will recognize Costa Rica's sovereignty over 200 miles of territorial waters. This has been established in the tuna fishing agreement for the Pacific Ocean eastern zone, approved in first debate yesterday by the Legislative Assembly, despite the strong opposition by independent Deputy Ricardo Rodriguez and leftist Deputy Arnoldo Ferreto. U.S., Costa Rican, and Panamanian delegates signed the agreement. Honduras and Guatemala also signed it. Those in favor of the agreement contend that the agreement will be highly beneficial to the country's fisheries development.

NICARAGUAN PRELATE NOTES FEARS FOR OBANDO Y BRAVO

PA092318 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Apr 86 p 4

[Text] Msgr Bismarck Carballo, secretary of Nicaraguan Cardinal Obando y Bravo, said last night that the supremacy of the Catholic Church in Nicaragua is indisputable, because the church obviously encompasses the majority of the faithful.

A group of Nicaraguan exiles met with Msgr Bismarck Carballo in the Colon Building last night to hold a friendly meeting with the prelate, present their respects, and discuss the present situation of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church in Nicaragua.

The crowd cheered the Nicaraguan Catholic Church and Nicaraguan Cardinal Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo during the preliminary meeting, which had as its star attraction, the presentation of a Pro-Democracy Association [Aprodem] award to Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo for his struggle on behalf of freedom in Central America.

Msgr Carballo said that the attendance of the Catholic faithful at Holy Week masses is a clear demonstration that the Catholic faith in Nicaragua is alive and active. Msgr Carballo pointed out that one of the things that always worries Catholics is Msgr Obando y Bravo's security. He is a man who works most of the day, continuously meeting with the faithful, but he is in excellent physical condition.

The Nicaraguan cardinal's secretary arrived in Costa Rica yesterday to receive an award that Aprodem conferred on Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo for his struggle to achieve peace in Central America, during a ceremony that took place this morning. President Luis A. Monge was present at the ceremony.

Msgr Carballo will hold a press conference in which he will discuss "Democracy and Religious Freedom." The press conference will be videotaped for later broadcast on television. Msgr Bismarck Carballo will return to Nicaragua during the week.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE INTERVIEWED ON NICARAGUAN SITUATION

PY071955 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1940 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (NA) -- Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte today said that "Nicaragua's problem must be solved by Nicaraguans," but warned Nicaragua that peace in Central America "will not be possible if it continues to maintain a sanctuary for Salvadoran terrorists within its territory."

Duarte said: " I am not going to discuss the ideological problem, because obviously there are differences between what I, as a democrat, believe and what the Sandinists and President Daniel Ortega, for example, believe."

During a telephone conversation with the program "Encounter," broadcast by "Radio Nacional," the Salvadoran president stated that "the Nicaraguan problem must be solved by the Nicaraguans. They have a history of dictatorship and totalitarism, as we have."

Duarte went on to say: "I cannot ignore the fact that in Nicaragua there is a colony that is completely isolated, where the leaders of the Salvadoran guerrillas have their operations center, their means of communications, their arms and ammunitions depot, and from where they prepare for guerrilla warfare."

President Duarte noted: "When there is a nation that offers this type of sanctuary to those who are engaged in destabilizing another nation, there is a need for reflection: I have tried to be clear with Nicaragua and have stated that so far I have prevented, because I have maintained a consistent policy, the setting up in El Salvador of a center of operations against Nicaragua."

Duarte urged Nicaragua "to respect Salvador's sovereignty and also urged that it close those operations centers within its territory, those sanctuaries for Salvadoran terrorists." Moreover, he voiced his belief that during the meetings held by the Contadora Group "an agreement that provides for spot checks and appropriate control be reached so that these problems of interference in one country by another, of one country destabilizing the other, be stopped, because it is harmful to Central American peace."

Duarte categorically denied that in the future he may accept the establishment in El Salvador of Nicaraguan contra operations bases.

However, he warned Nicaragua that "if their theory that they need to destabilize other nations for their own security is right, they should bear in mind the threat that the possible existence of a guerrilla base in El Salvador could represent for them."

Duarte noted: "I have been against the establishment of Nicaraguan contra bases in El Salvador. If we desire peace in Central America they should understand that it is not possible for them to continue maintaining a sanctuary for Salvadoran terrorists."

When he was asked about the negotiations being carried out with the guerrilla elements in his country, Duarte stated that "a sincere dialogue should be sought, not a tactical dialogue."

Duarte went on to say: "I am absolutely certain that if all national sectors are willing to seek and change the country's unfair structure, the results will be beneficial."

He said: "This will be possible only when those sectors that have hatred in their hearts replace it with love, when those who lack comprehension become tolerant. Then we may all be able to get down to work, not with a gun in hand, waiting to see who kills who first, but rather with wisdom to see who serves the people best."

MINISTER COMMENTS ON NEW EXPORT PROMOTION LAW

PA091608 San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish 1230 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] The approval of the law for the promotion of exports will efficiently step up nontraditional exports and in turn will contribute to reactivating our country's economy. Foreign Trade Minister Julio Rivas Gallont pointed out that this law contemplates the establishment of a single center for the issuance of export documents.

[Begin Rivas recording] The new law for the promotion of exports will introduce very important innovations to fully promote nontraditional exports from El Salvador to extraregional markets. One of the main instruments specified by the new law to achieve that end is the establishment of a single center for the issuance of export documents. That is specified in the law; we are currently working on the ground rules. This single center will operate under the Foreign Trade Ministry, but will be made up by representatives of all state institutions involved in the issuance of such documents. Exporters will now be able to obtain all needed documents in a single office and will not have to wander from place to place. They will be helped promptly; what used to take weeks to be handled will now be handled in a matter of hours. [end recording]

He added that for the first time small businessmen exporting less than 25 percent of their production will also receive incentives; they will enjoy a tax discount certificate.

Rivas pointed out that this law will allow the national and foreign private sectors to participate in the establishment and exploitation of free zones.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO DISCUSSES ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH DEPUTIES

PA091412 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0416 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Statement by President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo following 8 April meeting with the National Assembly; place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Cerezo] Well, the deputies were interested in some suggestions made to the Presidency of the Republic regarding the economic reorganization plan. We heard the views of the members of the commissions and political parties. We were told that each party would submit their views on this issue. We also discussed the problem of the outrageous increase of prices and the escalation of prices that we are currently experiencing in Guatemala. I believe that it was a good meeting because we agreed on the need to present an amendment, a revision, to the consumer protection law that would allow the government to implement specific actions aimed at halting the escalation of prices as well as to promote and obtain certain basic products such as corn and beans. This would be an attempt to resolve the most pressing problems involving the basic products.

We agreed in that it is necessary for the government to take steps to try and exercise a moderate, but forceful, control of this inflation that is affecting the Guatemalan people. We also agreed that prompt decisions should be made regarding the economic reorganization plan so that once an agreement is reached and the differences ironed out, these decisions may be implemented as of 1 May. As I have already mentioned, the main concern and topic for discussion was the lack of ethical principles on the part of some commercial sectors that have been increasing their prices and playing with the people's hunger. I think that resolving this issue must be the responsibility of the government and the members of the National Assembly and they must realize that it is necessary to revise the consumer protection law so that we may have the necessary mechanisms for the Economy Ministry to adopt emergency measures to correct the problem of supply of basic grains, emergency measures to promote and increase the medium-term production of basic grains, and to halt the escalation of prices.

CORRECTION TO REPORT ON ECONOMIC PROTESTS

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Protest Details" published on pages P 8-9 of the 8 April Latin America DAILY REPORT:

Page P 9, second paragraph, first line should read: The Economy Ministry reported today that . . . (correcting name of ministry)

HONDURAS

FOREIGN SECRETARY COMMENTS ON CONTADORA MEETING

PA091728 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] According to Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras, the meeting of the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the Central American foreign ministers was not a total failure.

The meeting lasted 36 hours, the longest in the 3 years that the Contadora Group has contributed to the achievement of peace in the Central American region. Foreign Secretary Lopez Contreras was asked whether Honduras is willing to sign the document for peace in Central America within the period established by the Contadora Group or before 6 June.

[Begin recording] The Honduran Government is determined to participate in good faith and with the intention of negotiating and concluding a general treaty for peace, cooperation, and security in Central America. [end recording]

The Panama commitment, which would lay the foundations for the drafting and signing of the Central American peace act, would establish nonaggression among the countries, noninterference in domestic affairs, domestic reconciliation in the countries, and aspects dealing with arms control, foreign advisers, and military maneuvers. According to the Honduran foriegn secretary, Nicaragua did not accept those proposals. The foreign secretary was asked whether the Honduran Government has officially expressed to the U.S. Government the concern voiced by Honduran labor and peasant organizations and private enterprise regarding the armed Nicaraguan groups in view that if the U.S. Government does not approve the $100 million in aid for the contras, they may come in large numbers to Honduras to cause social problems.

[Begin recording] Obviously, the armed Nicaraguan opposition is a problem that concerns the neighboring countries. It is evident that its military actions have not been totally limited to the Nicaraguan territory. Instead, like any other movement of revolutionary opposition in the history of the world, it has necessarily sought oxygen in the neighboring countries because otherwise it would quickly die. That is the case of the Sandinist movement in 1979 and the Salvadoran revolutionary opposition. In every circumstance, a spontaneous internal opposition cannot emerge and be maintained in the face of a power structure, especially in the face of a very well-developed military power structure. Therefore, it is logical that we should be concerned about this situation. If there is a U.S. commitment regarding the Nicaraguan armed opposition and if it were defeated -- something that I cannot predict -- as you suggest, I understand that the U.S. Government would have a responsibility regarding those armed groups. [end recording]

Stresses Document Importance

PA090409 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 8 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] Honduras has expressed its interest in having Contadora's talks directed exclusively toward "retaking its basic objective, which is to sign the Contadora Document," a treaty that will be a framework for peace, and suggested to other nations that "it is not advisable to deviate" from the established framework in order to accomplish "unilateral tactical purposes," in a clear reference to Nicaragua.

Honduran diplomacy has censured such strategies, which would lead to "political imbalance," because this would bring "partial results" that would jeopardize a satisfactory agreement for the five nations involved in the Central American crisis.

Honduras' position was defended by Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras during his speech at the opening of the [Contadora Group] meeting, which included 14 foreign ministers: the 4 Contadora ministers, the 4 Support Group ministers, the 5 regional ministers, and the Netherlands foreign minister, who presides over the EEC Council of Ministers, who attended the meeting as an observer.

Lopez Contreras sustained Honduras' invariable position during the negotiations for peace, maintained since 1983, that the agreement to be drafted should be an overall agreement that would link the five nations now in conflict.

The thesis of "not deviating from our basic objective" stated by Lopez Contreras is directed at preventing the Sandinist delegation from demanding at the Contadora and Support Group meetings that a request be made to the Reagan administration to cease its support for the contras as a condition for continuing with the peace negotiations.

Likewise, the Foreign Ministry strongly rejected the Sandinist thesis that the United States should sign a protocol to the general peace treaty in which the United States would commit itself to break up the rebels as a condition for Managua to sign the Contadora Document.

The Honduran position is that "a short-term need" should not be met. Instead, advantage should be taken of the mediation efforts to draft a stable and firm peace treaty, capable of enduring the "violence generated by the internal struggles in some countries."

Honduras believes that the 3-year negotiations have not been successful because the objective was abandoned by letting actions foreign to the crisis to further polarize the situation. Regarding Nicaragua's demands that its security be guaranteed by stopping the support to the contras, Honduran diplomats stated that "the Contadora negotiations do not limit the parallel actions that are taken as transition measures" in security and other controversial areas.

Likewise, the Honduran foreign secretary reiterated Honduras' position that so long as threats to peace and security persist, the arms race goes on, and there is no adequate control, the Honduran Government will seek the means to protect its people and its boundaries.

BOMB ALERT REPORTED AT TONCONTIN AIRPORT

PA091704 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1646 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The police have reported that since early this morning Tegucigalpa's international airport has been under a bomb alert. The police department's special demolition squad, helped by dogs trained to locate explosives, are searching every installation at the airport. According to telephone calls received by the police, a powerful bomb was reportedly placed in a suitcase that would be loaded onto an international flight. The police chose to delay all international and local air traffic to and from Tegucigalpa rather than taking the risk and later finding out that it was a true threat. Several subversive groups have been active in Honduras since 1979 and to date have carried out several dynamite attacks, bank robberies, clashes with State Security troops, and kidnappings.

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSE CONTRA PRESENCE

PA081240 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1801 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The leftist United Federation of Honduran Workers [FUTH] and the Association of Honduran Coffee Growers [Aprocafeh] today voiced their opposition to the anti-Sandinist forces' presence in Honduras.

FUTH President Hector Hernandez said that the "Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries should be expelled from Honduran territory to prevent a war with Nicaragua."

Hernandez added that "as long as members of the FDN, KISAN [Unity of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast Indigenous Peoples] and any other anti-Sandinist organization remain in Honduras, our country will have to face reprisals from Nicaragua."

The labor leader also condemned President Jose Azcona Hoyo, because when he spoke last weekend about the warlike incidents with the Sandinist Army in the area bordering with Nicaragua that are still taking place, he "did not mention the root of the problem, which is the counterrevolutionaries." Hernandez added: "The actions of the Sandinists on Honduran territory stem from the attacks that the contras made from bases established here."

The Honduran Army and Government deny that their territory shelters armed groups that enter Nicaragua, although they admit that its border with that country is too long to be carefully guarded.

Meanwhile, Aprocafeh President Wilfredo Castellanos said that instead of requesting military aid from the United States to fight against Nicaragua, "Honduras should request economic aid to strengthen the production of coffee, a product with a good international price." He also specified that "the contras should be evicted from our territory to prevent the constant clashes taking place with the EPS, which only harm Honduras."

He said that as a result of the clashes in Honduras between the contras and the Sandinists, 192 families from 34 villages have sought refuge in 13 other communities, and up to 14 families are living in one single house.

Most of the persons displaced from the area bordering with Nicaragua are small coffee producers, according to Wilfredo Castellanos, and therefore it is expected that the harvest this year will not be as good as expected.

"It does not help at all if the United States sends help to fight against the Sandinists and support the contras, and Honduras has to endure tremendous losses as a result of the erroneous policy of keeping them in their territory," Castellanos added.

NICARAGUA

INDIAN DELEGATION MEETS WITH DANIEL ORTEGA

PA090230 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The Indian delegation headed by (?Kames Charma), External Affairs Economic Division deputy minister, met with President Daniel Ortega, commander of the revolution.

On the same day, the members of the delegation talked to Foreign Cooperation Minister Henry Ruiz. During their conversation they stressed the need to strengthen political, economic, and commercial relations between the two nations, identified with the nonaligned policy. Henry Ruiz, commander of the revolution, told the members of the delegation, that Nicaragua needs to have peace to be able to develop itself normally.

STATE SECURITY REPORTEDLY FOILS 'CIA PLAN'

PA081938 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Nicaraguan state security has foiled another CIA plan aimed at justifying the Reagan administration's historic lie that Nicaragua supplies the Salvadoran guerrillas with weapons. The CIA had intended this plan to validate one of the first sets of white papers issued by Washington with all the lies that have served to begin and continue its aggressions against our country. According to information gathered by AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA [ANN], the so-called "trafficking of weapons" to El Salvador reportedly occurred last year on Meanguera Island, Nicaragua, in the Gulf of Fonseca. Youths who reportedly defected from the Patriotic Military Service with their weapons, would later be trained in El Salvador and sent to fight with the FDN.

Nicaraguan state security learned of this plan in October 1985 following the capture of (Ali Palmeron Somarriba), a contrabandist who operated in the Gulf of Fonseca. A state security officer in Region 2 told ANN that when (Palmeron) was captured, several AK rifles were recovered. He was planning to take these weapons into El Salvador to begin the counterrevolutionary plans. This was being done in complicity with Salvadoran Army officers.

The people who were to carry out the plan were recruited by Dennis Reyes, a counterrevolutionary leader who operates on Meanguera Island and who uses the alias of Commander (?Marta).

One of the first men assigned to get the AK rifles was Paulino Urriarte. He dressed in the uniform of an EPS soldier and offered 1,000 cordobas for each rifle in the area of Potosi. The plan included attacks on military positions in Nicaragua, and according to the statements of the Nicaraguan state security official, attention was drawn to this plan because AK rifles were being purchased, whereas the CIA mercenaries do not use this type of weapon.

Two of the eleven men captured by the authorities have been identified as 24-year-old Roger Antonio Perez Montenegro and 23-year-old Antonio Guerrero Arevalo. The two men spoke with ANN and said that two U.S. citizens who live on Meanguera Island, on the Salvadoran side, were responsible for giving instructions to the defectors and that they were posing as UN officials. Perez Montenegro admitted that Guerrero brought one of the AK rifles he saw on the island. He also said that a Salvadoran security official named Sandoval would cross to the island on one of the 10 Piranha boats that the Salvadoran Navy has, as well as the 10 Coast Guard boats they use to support the counterrevolutionaries.

NONALIGNED DOCUMENT CITED ON CONTADORA ACCORD

PA090002 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] The Nonaligned Movement representatives currently meeting in New Delhi, India, regard the accords signed in Panama by the Contadora and Support Groups' foreign ministers as very important for the movement.

According to experts from several continents, the appeal and the steps agreed upon to conclude a negotiation to return peace to Central America occur within the policy outlined by the nonaligned nations. Some of those interviewed recalled that the draft document prepared by India for the upcoming ministers' meeting to be held in New Delhi from 16 to 19 April reiterates this stance.

The Contadora Group represents a genuine regional initiative to settle this crisis politically. This has been expressed in a document being informally examined by the Nonaligned Movement in New Delhi. It is also reaffirmed in what is to be known as the New Delhi statement that the movement trusts Contadora to contribute significantly to greater efforts for peace in Central America.

Just as in previous conferences -- such as the one that took place in Luanda last year -- Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, Contadora Group members, as well as Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay, comprising the Support Group, are also hailed in this document.

In the document drafted by India, the United States is evidently condemned through an appeal to end the aggression against Nicaragua by training mercenaries, sabotage actions, such as the mining of Nicaraguan ports, and imposing a commercial embargo against Nicaragua. Nicaragua today called on the Nonaligned Movement to have closer relationships with developing countries and reported on the Ronald Reagan administration's aggressive policy, which forces the revolutionary government to divert the economic resources that it needs for its development.

Speaking during the plenary session of the fifth meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's coordinating countries for the economic development action program currently held in New Delhi, Rolando Seria, adviser to the Nicaraguan foreign cooperation minister, appealed for the unity of all developing nations. Seria added that the nonaligned countries should increase their cooperation with less-developed nations and countries like Nicaragua, which must endure aggressions that have already cost it more than $2 billion in economic losses. Finally, Seria appealed to the assembly to concentrate its efforts on giving priority to necessary and urgent areas of cooperation, among which he mentioned raw materials, financing, foreign debt, trade, food, and agriculture.

ASSEMBLY DELEGATION MEETS GUATEMALAN OFFICIALS

PA071514 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Members of a Nicaraguan National Assembly delegation held an interesting conversation yesterday with Guatemalan political and intellectual leaders. They discussed peace and democracy in Central America and the draft of the Nicaraguan constitution.

The meeting was held at the Camino Real Hotel, where 19 delegations of Latin American parliaments are meeting to talk about peace and democracy in the region.

The Nicaraguan delegation talked about the people's consultations on the draft constitution; This drew the attention of politicians and intellectuals, because this consultation will take place at a time when the U.S. Administration is increasing its aggression against the Nicaraguan people.

The Guatemalan politicians and intellectuals agreed in stating that the declaration of the Latin American Parliament in Guatemala is a victory for the Nicaraguan revolution and its people, because the consensus of 18 of the 19 countries expressed in the resolution rejects any interference by any hegemonic power that violates the basic principle of peaceful coexistence among nations.

Honduras did not sign the Guatemalan document.

URUGUAYAN DEPUTIES CONDEMN U.S. CONTRA AID

PA081830 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Uruguayan parliamentarians who arrived in Nicaragua yesterday on a 4-day visit as guests of the Nicaraguan National Assembly said that the U.S. Congress debate on the $100 million to finance the counterrevolutionary groups represents a brutal act of aggression against the Nicaraguan Government. The Uruguayan delegation is headed by Alberto Zumaran, Blanco Party senator and vice president of the Latin American Parliament. The other members of the delegation are: Broad Front Senator Jose German Araujo, Colorado Party Deputy Juan Justo Armaro, and Civic Union Deputy Julio E. Daverede.

As head of the parliamentarian delegation, Zumaran said that his arrival in Managua from Guatemala, where the third extraordinary meeting of the parliament was held, is to express the solidarity of the four Uruguayan political parties with the Nicaraguan revolution at the moment that it is enduring the U.S. aggression.

[Begin recording] [Zumaran] Our presence here is to express the solidarity of the four Uruguayan parties vis-a-vis the situation experienced by Nicaragua and the threats against its sovereignty, and to learn of the work that you are doing. Despite the distance between the two countries and the difficult communication, we have closely followed the situation. We are sure that these few days here will give us better insight into the problems and situation currently experienced by Nicaragua. These are the reasons for our visit.

[Unidentified reporter] We have learned that the Uruguayan parliament recently expressed itself against the debates on the $100 million to finance the counterrevolutionary groups. Could you expand on this?

[Zumaran] It is a position held by all the Uruguayan parties and which we voiced in Guatemala during the Latin American Parliament meeting. It is a tradition in Uruguay, a small country like yours, to defend national sovereignty, oppose all types of foriegn intervention in a country's democratic affaris, and protect the rights of the Latin American peoples to self-determination, to choose their own systems, and to forge their future. The discussion itslef by the U.S. Congress of economic aid for a private group that is up in arms against a constituted government represents a brutal act of aggression that we obviously reject. This is what we stated before the Uruguayan parliament and before the Latin American Parliament.

[Reporter] Should a U.S. intervention in our country occur, what do you think the strongest Latin American position should be?

[Zumaran] One of the points of the Guatemala declaration adopted by the parliament was foreseeing, and we hope it will not happen, an aggression. The commitment of the parliament, that is the 40 political parties, is to mobilize immediately at the continental level in solidarity with the attacked nation. [end recording]

BRIEFS

NEW ENVOY FROM PERU -- Managua, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Armando Lecaros de Cossio, new Peruvian ambassador to Nicaragua, presented his credentials on 7 April to President Daniel Ortega. [Summary] [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0409 GMT 8 Apr 86 PA]

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S 9 APRIL NEWS CONFERENCE NOTED

FL101218 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] In a televised press conference, U.S. President Ronald Reagan has made new threats against Nicaragua and renewed his pressure against the U.S. Congress to get it to vote new funds for the mercenary bands that are attacking the Central American country.

Reagan indicated that, although his government has no proof that Libya is behind dynamite attacks in Europe, Washington is studying actions against that country, which coincides with a report from the CBS Television chain that the President has approved in principle military reprisal action against that north African country.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. PLAN TO HELP CONTRAS

PA092309 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] A report with a Washington dateline has reported that the advisers of the President of the United States have already drafted the strategy that Reagan must follow to secure the $100 million he is demanding for the former Somozist guards attacking Nicaragua from their bases in Honduras.

According to observers, the U.S. President will be applying, as he is doing now, all kinds of individual and collective pressure on the congressmen, will appeal to cheap patriotism, and will simultaneously carry out other actions to create an international climate favorable to his demands. The idea is to turn the United States into an alleged victim of international communism and terrorism using forces such as that in the Gulf of Sidra, Libya, and the alleged military invasion of Honduras by Nicaragua.

Unfortunately for Reagan, not even the North Americans believe his arguments loaded with lies. NEWSWEEK recently published an article noting that after 5 years of Yankee training, leadership, and financing, the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have not been able to hold a single inch of Nicaraguan territory. NEWSWEEK notes that the term freedom fighters that the White House uses to describe such a band of killers is an insult for both Latin America and the United States. The magazine states that Reagan, with a broke policy for Central America, should accept the proposals of dialogue and diplomatic solutions being sponsored by Contadora.

Criticism is especially stronger from Latin America, where not just a few political leaders such as former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez believe that Washington's intention to give support to groups of bums uselessly trying to overthrow a legitimately constituted government such as Nicaragua is both inadmissible and condemnable.

The special meeting of the Latin American Parliament held in Guatemala City and the summit meeting of Central American presidents to take place in the city of Esquipulas, also in Guatemala, are serious efforts aimed at checking the threat of a generalized war in an area turned into a powder keg by the hegemonist ambitions of the northern empire.

Latin America's efforts in this regard have created a new type of relationship between our continent and the formerly almighty master of this hemisphere. These efforts enjoy broad support from the forces of the world that believe that agreement and reason are arguments superior to bullets and cannons.

U.S. TROOPS SAID TO HUMILIATE HONDURANS

PA091949 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. helicopter pilots who recently transported hundreds of Honduran soldiers to the border with Nicaragua are some of the potentially dangerous foci of the disease that has been growing for some time in Honduras -- a country virtually occupied by U.S. troops.

Thousands of U.S. soldiers stayed in Honduras for several months, to be replaced later by other U.S. soldiers under the pretext of conducting repeated war exercises. These exercises aim to create a platform of aggression against Nicaragua. The U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa is the largest in Central America. Dozens of spies and superconsuls are there. Their mission is to infiltrate Honduran Government offices to ensure that White House interests are observed. The large and unjustified U.S. presence in Honduras exceeds rational limits. For that reason, Reagan's subjects move freely in the country, have orgies, and spread gambling, drug addiction, alcoholism, and other vices at odds with the most elementary decency. Compounded to this unusual occupation is the disproportionate number of bases of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, most of whom are corrupt former Somozist guardsmen used to committing crimes before and after the flight of that dynasty's last member.

Thousands of Hondurans have been forced to abandon their homes when the Somozist guardsmen and their U.S. instructors show up. When this happens a climate of war sets in, the community's morale breaks down, and there is a noticeable avalanche of traffickers in drugs and other articles, sexual deviates, thieves, and drunks. The residents of the Honduran town of Comayagua, for example, were alarmed when the terrible disease AIDS was detected in several of the 90 prostitutes serving the U.S. military contingent stationed in a nearby base. Another common occurrence is the contraband of Honduran children who fall prey to foreign and local traffickers. These persons make hefty profits sending those children to rich, childless couples.

The impact of the foreign presence in Honduras reached such unsuspected extremes that Liberal Carlos Orbin Montoya, president of the Honduran Congress, said that it was time for the U.S. troops to leave the country. Meanwhile, other citizens are following his example and are asking that the Somozist mercenaries leave. However. U.S. dollars are buying the consciences of many representatives of the nation's authorities, who choose to remain silent in the face of the occupying troop's rebuffs and immoral acts. The second poorest country on the continent is seeking to subsist with U.S. alms, even if this means the humiliation of the Honduran people at the hands of arrogant Yankee Marines and their criminal godchildren, the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

JORGE RISQUET ON COOPERATION WITH ANGOLA

PA092018 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and president of the 10th meeting Cuban-Angola Cooperation Commission, granted an interview to our special correspondent in Luanda, Angola. Let us listen to it:

[Begin recording] [Martinez] Greetings, Havana Radio comrades. From Luanda, this is your correspondent Pedro Martinez Pires. Shortly after signing of the documents at the conclusion of the 10th meeting of the bilateral commission for cooperation between Cuba and Angola, here with us is Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. I would like to hear your comments on the results of the 10th meeting of the bilateral commission.

[Risquet] During the 10th meeting we have found a common ground, and we have discussed at length and approved the measures needed to broaden cooperation, and to make it more efficient in economic, political, and social, fields as necessary. Of course, this includes the field of defense, considering that the racist imperialist has conducted an escalation against all the southern cone countries, and against Angola in particular. This can be seen in the shameless welcome given to traitor Jonas Savimbi, as, quote, a hero, by Ronald Reagan and other U.S. officials. For that reason, one can surmise that the Yankee imperialism is giving direct aid to the counterrevolutionary bands in addition to the aid it has been giving them surreptitiously or through the South African fascists. In the face of this escalation and new dangers, we agreed to reinforce our cooperation. We are sure that any new attempt or escalation is doomed to fail. The people of Angola will win; the people of Namibia will win; the people of South Africa will win. We will attain security for Angola, independence for Namibia, equality for the multiracial people of South Africa, the abolition of apartheid, and consequently, peace for the nations of southern Africa. [end recording]

BRAVO RETURNS FROM L.A. PARLIAMENT MEETING

FL081724 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Yesterday, upon arriving in Havana, Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, said that the Latin American, anti-imperialistic spirit prevailed during the third special session of the Latin American Parliament. Bravo said the final declaration calls for solidarity against U.S. intervention and in Central American affairs. The Latin American parliamentarians said they would support the people and their independence in the event of direct intervention.

DANISH PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT, DELEGATION VISIT

Malmierca Meets Leader

FL091149 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Test] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Denmark's Parliament President Svend Jakobsen have held a meeting in Havana.

Meeting With ANPP President

FL092034 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] met yesterday with Svend Jakobsen, president of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Denmark.

The Danish parliamentarian was interested in the results of the recent Latin American Parliament meeting held in Guatemala City, which was attended by Bravo.

The ANPP president stressed the Latin American, anti-imperialist nature of the final document and noted that is was approved unanimously despite the heterogeneous representation at the meeting, which was attended by representatives of more than 50 political parties.

Rodriguez Meets Delegation

FL100235 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Today Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met with Svend Jakobsen president of the Danish Parliament. The Cuban leader gave the distinguished guest a thorough explanation of Cuba's stand regarding the main international general and regional issues. Special attention was given to the situation in Central America and southern Africa. Carlos Rafael also explained to Jakobsen the most relevant matters related to the country's economic and social development and its plans. The chief of the Danish Parliament's Administration, [name indistinct], Danish ambassador to Cuba Bent Sondergaard, and the minister counselor of the Danish Embassy (Niels Nestor), were present.

Delegation Departs

FL100152 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Svend Jakobsen, president of the Parliament of the Kingdon of Denmark, has returned to his country after a 4-day visit in Cuba where he headed a Danish parliamentary delegation invited by the ANPP. A few minutes before leaving the air terminal, Jakobsen told the press that Denmark supports the Contadora Group efforts in obtaining peace in Central America. Referring to Nicaragua, he said each country has the right to decide the kind of society it wants and nobody should interfere with it. The Danish parliamentary delegation was seen off by Deputy Felix Moreno, chief of the ANPP Commission Attention Department, [as heard] at the Jose Marti International Airport.

CEMA MEETING ON HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY ENDS

FL092353 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] The 53rd meeting of the third section of the CEMA Permanent Commission for the Development of Hydroenergetic Resources ended in Sancti Spiritus today. The meeting began yesterday with the participation of representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, GDR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union, CSSR, and Yugoslavia, which participated as a guest.

Tomorrow, the participants will visit the area where the Sancti Spiritus hydroelectric power plant is being built. It is located near the Caracucey River in the Escambray Mountains. The hydroelectirc power plant is being built at a cost of almost 400 million pesos and is the country's most important hydroelectric project. When it is completed toward the end of 1995, it will help Cienfuego's nuclear power plant operate at its full capacity. This is necessary for its reactors to last its full operational life.

The Sancti Spiritus hydroelectric power plant will be able to supply 500 megawatts in only 10 minutes. This will contribute to the fast stabilization of the national hydroelectric system and will respond to peak-hour demands. The necessary cooperation to build the hydroelectric power plant was one of the main topics discussed during the CEMA meeting in Sancti Spiritus. Currently, there are plans to install other hydroelectric power plants in Cuba and to exploit every possibility of installing hydroelectric power plants.

MACHADO VENTURA ADDRESSES CTC COUNCIL MEETING

FL100119 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Important topics such as the labor movement's internal affairs, cadres policies, and the labor organization's operation, were discussed by party Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura at the conclusion of the 52d meeting of the National Council of the central organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC]. Regarding the replacement of cadres he said we have to begin this task immediately, we need to look for quality in the men and women we select and let young people move forward.

[Begin recording] We are already at a stage where quality is important in cadres policies. We no longer can look only for a good reliable and hard working man. That is very good and there was a time that was what we were looking for. Now we have to look for the good, reliable, hard-working man and, at the same time, one that has capabilities to further develop the task assigned to him, to make progress, so we move forward. [end recording]

Viega Closes Meeting

FL092020 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] In his report to the 52d meeting of the National Council of the CTC organization Roberto Veiga [CTC secretary general and Politburo member] said that the workers will never feel that the trade union is theirs if the trade union is not democratic.

During his speech, Veiga added: None of us should wait very long to submit their work to a serious and rigorous self-critical analysis. Veiga pointed out in his closing speech that the line of action approved at the third party congress applies to everyone.

TELEVISION, RADIO SERVICES EXPAND OVER 5 YEARS

PA091724 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] During the past 5-year period a decisive boost was given to the Cuban television transmission services. Seventeen low frequency, and 5 medium- and high-frequency relay stations were installed in Holguin Province and the City of Havana. All this equipment was built in Cuba. These new installations expanded the national television's service range to cover 90 percent of our country.

Six new stations inaugurated their FM services. This is in addition to the two already existing stations. Stereo broadcasting was begun in three more stations, making this 12 stereo stations in the country.

The mountainous areas, the ones of most difficult access, were also included in the plan through which television signals can be received in remote areas of the country. Samll relay stations, special antennae, and solar-energy-run relay stations are used for this purpose.

All this, supported by the regular broadcast of color television, has contributed to a substantial improvement of the national television service in the past 5-year period. This work will continue to expand in the next few years.

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH U.S. HOUSE SPEAKER O'NEILL

PA090339 Paris AFP in Spanish 0025 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Santo Domingo, 8 Apr (AFP) -- Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, met today with President Salvador Jorge Blanco, who told him about the critical situation confronting the sugar industry, which is the backbone of the Dominican Republic's economy, it was officially reported.

Dominican Foreign Minister Jose Augusto Vega Imbert, who participated in the meeting and acted as spokesman, said that Jorge Blanco stressed that the crisis is partly due to the progressive reductions of the sugar export quotas to the U.S. market. According to official statistics, the reductions in the past 2 years have meant a $130-million loss in the Dominican Republic's income from exports.

In his brief report, Vega Imbert did not mention whether the Central American crisis was discussed, although it has been said that it was the main objective of O'Neill's tour to Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, and finally to Santo Domingo, heading a group of 12 other U.S. congressmen. However, authorized official sources told AFP that the Central American subject was discussed by O'Neill and Jorge Blanco at the meeting and during the lunch held by the president for the visitors early this afternoon.

JORGE BLAMES NICARAGUA'S ARCE FOR UPRISING

PA081918 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1614 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Santo Domingo 8 Apr (EFE) -- According to statements by President Salvador Jorge Blanco, relations between the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua "have been seriously damaged."

During a nationwide address last night from the National Palace, Blanco blamed this deterioration of relations on Commander Bayardo Arce, who recently visited the country to observe the meeting of the Socialist International committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. During his stay in the Dominican Republic, Arce visited the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) accompanied by Nicaraguan Ambassador Geronimo Danilo Valle Martinez.

After loud speeches and anti-imperialist proclamations, the ceremony honoring Arce degenerated into violent demonstrations by the UASD students, which led to clashes with the police, who repelled the attack with tear gas.

The Dominican president said that "at the end of the ceremony, at which the Nicaragua ambassador to Dominican Republic was also present, the university students went into the streets shouting slogans against reelection, endangering the peaceful and tranquil neighborhood near the university area."

Jorge Blanco said: "Unfortunately, the presence of a Nicaraguan leader and the Nicaraguan ambassador seriously hurt our relations, because we are very respectful of what happens in our neighboring Latin American countries."

FBIS

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REPORTAGE ON L.A. PARLIAMENT MEETING IN GUATEMALA

Superpower Interference Scored

PA101755 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 5 Apr 86 p 5

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Apr -- The special meeting of the Latin American Parliament yesterday condemned intervention by the superpowers and demanded the withdrawal of all bases and military advisers from Latin America. It also called for an end to the political, logistical, and military support to the guerrilla and terrorist groups, even by Latin American countries. The speeches by delegates centered fundamentally on international support for Guatemala's democratization process and efforts toward its consolidation across the continent, as well as on the need to find a peaceful and Latin American solution to the tensions in Central America.

Brazil expressed its categorical repudiation of "any type of intervention in the internal affairs of the Latin American countries. [quotation marks as published] Likewise, Colombia noted through Joaquin Franco Burgos, vice president of the Chamber of Representatives, that a democracy cannot be regarded as such when a government interferes in other governments. The South American delegate said that the autonomy of the countries in the area must be felt "fully" and reiterated Colombia's support for the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the Caraballeda declaration, insisting that the solution for Central America must emerge from a Latin American discussion.

Parliamentarian Franco Burgos called for "no meddling in pluralistic democracies and national reconciliation wherever it is necessary; no foreign bases and withdrawal of foreign troops and advisers from all Latin America; and elimination of all political, logistical, and military support for guerrilla and terrorist groups." He added: "We are concerned and protest the fact that in some countries there are agencies of terrorist groups which are promoted abroad and, unfortunately, in fraternal Latin American countries as well."

Honduras, which is one of the countries most affected by the conflict in Central America, complained that it is suffering because it is located in the middle of the area and has three borders, two seas, and conflicts on two sides: El Salvador and Nicaragua. Honduras asked for Latin America's solidarity in the role it must sadly play. "We have a 900-km border with Nicaragua that was also used during the struggle against Somoza. We now have 70,000 Salvadoran and Nicaraguan refugees, and no country has told us it will show solidarity by taking a number of these refugees, whom we have to protect, feed, etc.," the Honduran parliamentarian said. He stressed that the conflict arose from the internal opposition in Nicaragua to a revolution that has an ideology alien to the area, and that as a result, internal settlement and dialogue are necessary. If such settlement is not reached inside Nicaragua, an escalation of the crisis is inevitable.

For its part, El Salvador, along with Nicaragua, is contributing the dead to settle the conflicts between the world superpowers, which must be equally condemned, according to Deputy Antonio Guevara. "The day Nicaragua ceases being a sanctuary for terrorists or a training camp of subversion, we will place ourselves on the side of the Nicaraguan people to seek freedom, justice, and an enhancement of values," he added.

Meeting With U.S. Proposed

PA090310 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2214 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Apr (EFE) -- The Latin American Parliament today decided to propose the inclusion of the Guatemala declaration, regarding the contribution of the parliaments to reducing areas of conflict, to the commission drafting the resolution of the [illegible]th IPU Conference, which is being held here. The Guatemala declaration, promulgated last week by the parliamentarians of 18 Latin American countries, includes support of the peace-keeping efforts of the Contadora Group, the demilitarization of Central America, and the ratification of the self-determination of the peoples.

A member of the Argentine group told EFE that the Latin American legislators agreed to extend an invitation to the leaders of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to hold a joint meeting to discuss the Central American crisis. In the coming days Peruvian Senator Townsend Escurra, secretary general of the Latin American Parliament, will travel to the United States to convey the Latin American proposal.

Panama offered to host this meeting, at which the U.S. legislators, if they accept the invitation, will study how to act jointly with their Latin American colleagues in favor of peace in Central America.

The Parliament also supported the inclusion of the Argentine proposal on the agenda of the next meeting of the IPU, to be held in Buenos Aires in October.

The Argentine legislators proposed that the agenda of the coming conference include the topic International Year of Peace, the parliaments' contribution to the eradication of all political, financial, and commercial forms of colonialism.

TIP O'NEILL DENOUNCES NICARAGUA TO CONGRESSMEN

PY101512 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Apr 86 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, said yesterday that Nicaragua is moving ever further from the "democratic standards of free societies" and that the U.S. Congress may approve aid for the contra terrorists as a consequence. Speaking before the Lower House Foreign Relations Committee, O'Neill said he had not changed his staunch opposition to aid for the contras and criticized President Ronald Reagan's "gunboat diplomacy" in Central America. But he said Reagan's proposal for 100 million dollars in new funds for the contras could pass if Nicaragua did not change its domestic policies in the next ninety days. The House of Representatives narrowly rejected the aid on O'Neill's urging, but last week the Senate voted in favour of it, meaning it will come up for another vote in the House later this month.

"Nicaragua's invasion of Honduras, although it wasn't of the magnitude that was first reported, caused some Democrats (in the House) who were against the aid to change their view," said O'Neill, flanked by a dozen other U.S. congressmen, both Republicans and Democrats. "President Ortega made the wrong move at the wrong time," said O'Neill, referring to Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega.

O'Neill also met and discussed the Central American crisis with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. The speaker would only say that they had held a "very interesting" dialogue and that Caputo would air O'Neill's opinions at the Contadora group's meeting in Panama this weekend. Also at Congress, O'Neill met with Vice-President Victor Martinez, Radical and Peronist senators, and later with his Argentine counterpart Juan Carlos Pugliese. At most meetings he was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz.

Lower House Foreign Relations Commission chairman Federico Storani (Radical-Buenos Aires) said O'Neill was eager to hear the opinions of Argentine legislators on the Central American crisis, and that deputy Ruben Cardozo (Peronist-Santa Fe) told O'Neill that "on this issue, we all agree on rejecting armed intervention."

Storani's counterpart in the Senate, Adolfo Gass (Radical-Buenos Aires), was frustrated in his attempts to explain to the visiting legislators his and Senator Ricardo Lafferriere (Radical-Entre Rios)'s plan to call on the U.S. Congress to send 100 million dollars to the Contadora group, instead of to the contras. When Gass began explaining the idea, Ortiz interrupted him by saying "It's getting late. The deputies are waiting for us." Ortiz invited Gass to explain the plan at the evening cocktail party at the U.S. embassy, to which Gass shot back: "I won't be able to because I'm not invited."

Meanwhile, Deputy Augusto Conte (Christian Democrat-City) congratulated O'Neill for his "brilliant and effective defense of peace in Central America," adding that O'Neill has "faithfully represented millions of Latin Americans who want peace and are opposed to military intervention that assaults the Nicaraguan people."

O'Neill, a veteran Democrat from Massachusetts who is retiring from politics this year, and the other U.S. legislators leave Argentina today after a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin.

VENEZUELA's LUSINCHI ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY092120 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2055 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (TELAM) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi arrived at the military sector of Jorge Newbery Airport today at 1750 (2050 GMT) on board a Venezuelan Air Force Boeing 737. Lusinchi was welcomed by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and other Argentine officials.

Meets Alfonsin

PY102226 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Relay from Government House by Susana Serrao]

[Excerpt] Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today held a meeting with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin at 1030. They made the following comments during a ceremony at which they exchanged decorations.

Lusinchi said: Mr President, I feel very honored to bestow upon you the Order of the Liberator Simon Bolivar. We also honor the medal by pinning it on your chest.

Alfonsin replied: Thank you very much, Mr President. You are very kind, and it is an honor to receive this decoration, because the Order of the Liberator Simon Bolivar makes me recall that at the time of your inauguration I had the pleasure of bestowing upon you the Order of Liberator General San Martin. Thus, I hope that these decorations we have exchanged will symbolize the friendship between our peoples and the fruitful task we may jointly develop for the benefit of Latin America.

Lusinchi then thanked the president for his remarks. [Words indistinct] these decorations were, among other things, the Latin American foreign debt and the efforts being made by the Consensus of Cartagena to achieve similar payment terms for the creditor countries.

During their meeting they also discussed the negotiations being conducted by the Contadora Group in Central America, (?negotiations) that failed this week in Panama. On the other hand, let us state that Lusinchi's visit to Argentina has been repeatedly announced since late 1984 in order to sign commercial agreements [words indistinct] trading Argentine grain for Venezuelan iron, fertilizers, and alumina. Among the agreements to be signed tomorrow afternoon are, [words indistinct] and petrochemicals.

GARCIA MEZA'S TRIAL SUSPENDED; LAWYERS CLAIM BIAS

PY091242 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] After only 2 days the trial of former President Luis Garcia Meza was suspended after the plaintiffs' lawyers accused Supreme Court President Justice Guillermo Caballero Saucedo of being biased in favor of the defendant and asked him to disqualify himself from further participation in the trial. The Supreme Court today will answer the plea for disqualification not only of Caballero but also of Justice Hugo Galindo Decker, who, along with Caballero, was accused of having cooperated with Garcia Meza's de facto regime. The grounds for disqualification stated in the plea were the fact that Justices Caballero and Galindo were appointed by the accused, thus receiving from him considerable benefits.

Carlos Borth, lawyer of the widow of Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, the political leader who was killed on 17 July 1980 during the coup d'etat staged by Garcia Meza to overthrow constitutional President Lidia Gueiler Tejada, stated that the president of the Supreme Court must disqualify himself because he has shown bias in favor of the accused. Borth added that Caballero Saucedo has not been allowing questions by the plaintiff's lawyers, has restricted freedom of speech of the lawyers, and has reduced the time allowed for questioning the defendant, thus violating criminal law provisions.

Gen Lopez Discusses Trial

PY110006 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The Armed Forces will not interfere under any circumstances with the trial of former General Luis Garcia Meza, according to Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Raul Lopez Leyton, who told the press this morning that the protection that the former general is receiving is being granted on instructions from the Interior Ministry.

[Begin Lopez recording] I have already said that the Armed Forces would not interfere with the trial. When the Supreme Court has issued its ruling we will implement the appropriate measures in keeping with military laws and regulations. The protection granted to General Garcia Meza and also to all those present in the courtroom has been requested by the Interior Ministry. The president of the Supreme Court asked the Interior Ministry for protection, and we are cooperating with the police because that is part of our duties. [end recording]

Gen Lopez Leyton went on to say that the budget cuts will not prompt the Armed Forces to take any action. He indicated that the economic crisis must be endured by people and Armed Forces alike.

IMF LINKS $57-MILLION STAND-BY LOAN TO BUDGET

PY102115 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 9 Apr (AFP) -- Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada announced here today that the IMF has removed from its agenda the discussion of a $57-million stand-by loan for Bolivia because the Bolivian Congress has not approved the national budget. Sanchez de Lozada said that Bolivia needed this stand-by loan desperately to renegotiate its foreign debt with international private banks (approximately $1 billion) and to obtain new foreign loans.

Political circles have termed Sanchez de Lozada's statements an attempt to speed up the approval of the budget which the executive branch submitted approximately 2 weeks ago. The draft budget submitted by the executive branch is part of the conditions set forth in the letter of intent that Bolivia and the IMF signed in mid-March.

FOREIGN DEBT PAYMENTS TO BANKS NOT AUTHORIZED

PY080042 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Mar 86 p 7

[Text] The government has not authorized any amortization payment on the foreign debt to international banks, and the Central Bank has not made any such payments. This information was provided by Fernando Paz Valdivieso, who is member of the bank directorate. Valdivieso made the statement when asked how much had been made to international banks. Paz Valdivieso said that no payments have been made during this administration.

He said that such a request may have been prompted by the amortization payments that have been made to multilateral financial institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank (IRDB), the Andean Development Corporation (CAFO), or to bilateral organizations, such as the U.S. International Development Agency (USAID).

PEREZ DE CUELLAR ENDS VISIT, LEAVES FOR U.S.

PY072042 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Relay from El Alto Airport in La Paz by Cristina Corrales]

[Excerpts] I am reporting from El Alto airport to inform everyone that the Argentine presidential plane to take UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to Buenos Aires is now about to take off. The UN secretary general will make a stopover in Buenos Aires and will then board another plane for Washington, thus ending his South American trip.

A few minutes ago the secretary general held a press conference during which he made several important remarks. He said that as far as Bolivia is concerned the United Nations will continue its normal assistance programs for Bolivia and will also take several steps internationally toward establishing mechanisms through which international financing could be obtained.

Perez de Cuellar made these remarks to Panamericana and other news media at the El Alto airport. However, the most important part of his statement deals with the conflict between Libya and the United States. Javier Perez de Cuellar said that Reagan and Gorbachev should not get involved in the Libyan conflict, that they should rather seek to create an atmosphere of peace in this international year of peace.

Later Perez de Cuellar discussed the Bolivian situation. He expressed great satisfaction with having had a chance to meet with top Bolivian officials. He said that he met with Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy with whom he discussed, among other things, the issue of drug trafficking. He indicated that in his opinion Bolivia is making significant progress at the international level toward improving its image in connection with drug trafficking.

JUNTA'S CANESSA DISCUSSES POLITICAL SCENE

PY080135 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Mar 86 pp D1, D2

[Interview with Government Junta Member Lieutenant General Julio Canessa Roberts by reporter Blanca Arthur -- time and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Arthur] Would you say that the Chilean Army is anticommunist by training?

[Canessa] The training of the Army is professional, nonpartisan and definitely anti-Marxist.

[Arthur] What would you say to those who claim that in 1973 the Armed Forces began a war against communism?

[Canessa] In 1973 there was a military uprising prompted by the need to defeat certain forces operating in the country that were about to take over. This action led to confrontations of varying magnitude and there were casualties on both sides.

[Arthur] But the struggle against subversion is still going on and ...

[Canessa] That is something else again. At that time we had something one could call a civil war, because people had to be disarmed and overt military actions had to be conducted. Now there is an antisubversive struggle because there is always subversion. However, this is no longer a war but rather antisubversive action.

[Arthur] To fight subversion all these years the government has used security organizations whose duties, as you once said, should be strictly preventive. Do you think this is the case now?

[Canessa] We hope that the security organizations are indeed carrying out preventive duties by having information about the actions of the enemy well in advance, so as to disarm it before it can do any harm. This is the ideal situation. That is why I told you that this is basically an intelligence struggle.

[Arthur] What is your opinion of UN Special Observer Fernando Volio's report on human rights and of the resolution submitted by the United States basically recommending the need to reorganize Chile's security organizations because they are guilty of the worst violations of human rights?

[Canessa] You are aware that our country is the victim of great unfairness as far as human rights are concerned, because there are many yardsticks and Chile is measured with the strictest of all. Thus, even if there were no security organizations in Chile, other pretexts would be sought to accuse this government of violating human rights. Madame, the Soviet empire in its attempt to take control of the whole world by any means whatsoever, is acting everywhere and we are one of its main targets because we have resisted it and the empire failed here just when it was practically ready to take power.

[Arthur] You are saying that they have not been defeated? Would you say that subversion has managed to rearm itself ever since the Communist Party decided to resort to violence?

[Canessa] You said that the Communist Party has chosen violent struggle. Madame, the Communist Party has always done whatever was more convenient for it, resorting to any means whatsoever. Therefore, they may say "we want peaceful solutions rather than violent solutions," but they are always resorting to violent solutions. The fact that the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] has always been around is proof of what I am telling you. Who is behind it? The Communist Party is the main force behind all this. They are disciplined and efficient and they make use of everyone else to attain their own objectives.

[Arthur] Many people feel that the Armed Forces have been guided in their struggle by the so-called National Security Doctrine...

[Canessa] Madame, very few ideas have been as badly manhandled and distorted as this one, for a variety of reasons. The fact is that this concept is in keeping with a universally accepted approach to the need to protect the state involving all components of national security, including the military. For us, national security comprises a set of steps intended to guarantee and protect the state so as to allow it to perform normally and effectively. This concept is a great deal broader than national defense, which is only one aspect of national security. Socioeconomic development is favorable to the security of the whole country, which means that this development is one of the objectives of national security. The whole country must harmoniously seek its own development and security.

[Arthur] But what does this actually mean? Those who criticize the National Security Doctrine claim that it is the justification wielded by all Latin American military governments.

[Canessa] National security compels the country to be permanently on alert to defend its overall development by securing peace, neutralizing any interference against it, resorting to measures directed at preserving and enhancing internal order and cohesion, promoting good international relations and being ready to use arms to defend the country when there is no other choice.

[Arthur] How can one reconcile the National Security Doctrine and the freedom that a country must have?

[Canessa] Nothing can be further from the truth than to claim that this "doctrine" is aimed at enslaving the people. The very people who interpret it this way have broken the balance between security and development in their own countries by excessively enhancing the former. Unfortunately, in addition to those who deliberately distort things, there are those who follow their lead without being fully informed.

[Arthur] What do you think about the trials in which members of the Armed Forces have been involved? Do you believe that there could be a lust for vengeance among those whose human rights have been violated?

[Canessa] The government has been the first to request that the courts prosecute to the limits of the law whenever officials have abused their powers or engaged in illegal activities. However, all this must be viewed within the framework of a "war to the death" policy that international Marxism has unleashed in order to destabilize the government at any cost. This war has led to legitimately defensive reaction which unfortunately inflicted casualties on both sides. Vengeance would be the worst attitude to assume. I do not believe that this is the case now. If it were the case, the consequences would be disastrous. However, I trust that my country's courts, which have always maintained an independent and objective position, will curb the lust for revenge in those who may display it.

[Arthur] There are some people who believe that this situation may constitute an obstacle on the path toward democracy because the Armed Forces are not prepared to stand trial as it happened in Argentina. What would you say to this?

[Canessa] One should not make comparisons between countries. I think it is incredible to bring before the courts a military officer who has been compelled to defend the interests of the country, freedom and his own life in the course of his duties. I believe that it is outrageous to compare a military man to a terrorist or to those who use violence to get political power or to restrict freedom. Vengeance or reprisals are enacted arbitrarily, which is not fair. Furthermore, they breed unfathomable consequences.

[Arthur] In your opinion, to what extent has subversion influenced the actions of the military government?

[Canessa] The government has never allowed its actions to be influenced by subversion. However, it is true that to some extent subversion has hampered the actions of the government just as it has done in the past and as it continues to do in all countries. Our country's situation is worse because there is overt foreign support for subversion and, worse still, many sectors of the country that have traditionally supported order have assumed an ambiguous position toward the subversives and in some cases have even given them moral support. This is very serious because it is showing us what to expect in the future unless these sectors state their position clearly.

[Arthur] Do you see this situation as an obstacle to the return of democracy? What do you think about the U.S. position favoring a transition because it feels that the communist threat will be even worse otherwise?

[Canessa] The U.S. Government is free to study any country it may deem convenient and state its preference in accordance with its own interests, without this being an interference in our affairs, just as we do not interfere with its affairs or those of any other country. This is one of the principles of our foreign policy. However, the problem is that the United States is trying to implement its own model elsewhere and even though it claims to know the differences between one country and the other, you can see what happened in Cuba, Vietnam, Iran and Central America.

[Arthur] And now in the Philippines?

[Canessa] (laughing) You forgot Haiti.

[Arthur] Then you rule out the possibility of the same thing happening in Chile as a way of stopping Chile from following the lead of those other countries you mentioned?

[Canessa] The people that dream about something like that happening here are seriously ill with powerlust and do not know the Chilean people, who are proud of their sovereignty.

[Arthur] There is some talk that some people are looking for a General Ramos?

[Canessa] For a what...?

[Arthur] For a general like the one that rebelled in the Philippines.

[Canessa] Let them keep on looking and see if they can find him.

[Arthur] You do not really appreciate any of the value of democracy as a system?

[Canessa] I appreciate all the values of democracy. I am a democrat! We Chileans have always been democrats and for this reason we are struggling for democracy. In 1973 we left our institutional framework to save democracy and prevent the country from falling into Marxist totalitariansim, to which some people would take us directly while others would do it after a 6-month transition period. Right now we are moving toward the democracy that was outlined in the 1980 Constitution. Thus, I am not a totalitarian, a fascist or a Nazi. I want to make this absolutely clear, Madame. Furthermore, the Chilean Army is disciplined, but nonetheless deeply democratic.

[Arthur] However, to move in step with the Constitution, one must take concrete actions...

[Canessa] (He hastens to open one of the drawers of his desk while saying that he has the answer written down in there.) Look, four organic constitutional laws have already been promulgated: the one on the constitutional court, the one on mining concessions, the one on exceptional rules, and the one on the electoral board. The Government Junta is currently studying four other laws over which there are some differences of opinion on the fine points; the law on political parties contains two aspects, for example, over which there are different opinions.

[Arthur] What is your opinion?

[Canessa] Let me finish first, and then I will tell you what I think about all this. We are also working on the law concerning the national comptroller's office, the one on guidelines for public administration, and another on the electoral system. There are a few more laws that must come to us, but progress is being made and all these laws will be promulgated.

[Arthur] It has been said that the laws on political parties are the most important ones and the differences over party membership are basic because some say that 20,000 or 30,000 signatures would suffice to register a party, while the executive branch believes that there should be 150,000 signatures.

[Canessa] (After picking up a calculator and making some calculations.) If you take into account that we have 7 million voters, 150,000 is merely 2 percent.

[Arthur] Wouldn't you say that the country would be overpoliticized if the people were compelled to join a party?

[Canessa] Madame, these are fine points that will be resolved.

[Arthur] General, to what extent do you have a free hand in the Government Junta, taking into account that you are the Army representative and, therefore, subordinate to the chief executive?

[Canessa] It is very true that the chairman of the fourth legislative commission represents the commander in chief of the Army, who is also the president of the nation. This is one of the jobs to which he appoints people he trusts. This does not mean that the fourth commission is not making an honest and technical analysis of the drafts that the executive branch submits, nor does it prevent this commission from making whatever remarks must be made. Furthermore, the drafts are analyzed, discussed, and resolved jointly with other legislative commissions bearing in mind strictly constitutional provisions and the supreme interests of the country.

[Arthur] When he opened the legislative period, Admiral Merino said that is was necessary to review certain aspects of the Constitution, adding that they had to be corrected, and then he said that, for example, the troops should not vote.

[Canessa] I believed that the admiral addressed one of the many aspects that could be reviewed. No human endeavor is perfect.

[Arthur] You later said that you did not believe that the time was appropriate to change the Constitution, but in the past you have not ruled out the possibility of constitutional reform. In your opinion, what conditions should exist for a constitutional reform? Do you believe that there could be negotiations between the Armed Forces and the political sector?

[Canessa] From the purely theoretical point of view, I believe that the first condition that must be fulfilled by those who want such negotiations is the open acceptance of the current Constitution, because if they fail to do so, there are no grounds for discussion. The next logical step would be recognition of the current government and a clearly stated position toward Marxist totalitarianism. The Constitution was approved by the majority of the citizens in an honest, secret, and free plebiscite. It will be up to the current legally constituted government to submit any future reforms to the people, without having to go into any kind of negotiations or compromises with anyone, at least as far as I am concerned. Why should it? With whom should it "negotiate"? Who do they represent? Who has empowered them to oppose what the people voted for?

[Arthur] Then you rule out any future negotiations with the signatories of the "National Accord"? The fact is that so far there has been much speculation about the attitude of the Armed Forces toward the Accord. It is being said that only the Army has disregarded it. Would you say that is true?

[Canessa] The government has made its position toward the so-called "National Accord" very clear. It began by objecting to its name, its lack of definition on certain vital aspects, and the lack of coherence between its principles and the actions of many of its members who saw in it merely an opportunity to destabilize the government. Saying that only the Army is disregarding the "National Accord" is tantamount to driving a wedge between this institution and the other armed instituttuions, the policy, and the government in general. One does not have to be too smart to realize where these rumors are coming from.

[Arthur] However, the members of the National Accord are not the only ones who want a constitutional reform, especially of the part on the presidential succession. Would you be prepared to accept this reform?

[Canessa] The Constitution provides the mechanisms for change. If a proposal of this kind were made in keeping with constitutional provisions, I would not refuse to study it.

[Arthur] What is your answer to those who believe that this reform is necessary because if the people do not approve the candidate of the Armed Forces, the latter would be putting their prestige in jeopardy?

[Canessa] We can all theorize about this issue, propose options, and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of each of them. The person responsible to the nation for this process will also have to do the same to decide on the most appropriate course of action.

[Arthur] Should a reform on this issue be accepted, do you believe that a better understanding will be reached between the Armed Forces and the politicians?

[Canessa] You are talking about an understanding between the government and the politicians, because the Armed Forces are not deliberative.

[Arthur] But they will have to deliberate before 1989.

[Canessa] The decisions will be made by the High Command, they will not come as a result of deliberations within the Armed Forces. As to your question, it will depend on the kind of reform that is made. However, it must be taken for granted that regardless of its nature, it will not satisfy those who merely seek the total destruction of all democratic ideas and want a totalitarian state. Nor will it satisfy those who are driven by personal or factional ambitions.

[Arthur] Which factions are these?

[Canessa] You know very well whom I mean. Nothing will be good enough for them, because they will ask for other things later since their main objective is power. Thus, I believe that a constitutional reform is something that should be decided upon at the right time, keeping the interests of the nation in mind.

[Arthur] What do you think about the strategy of "social mobilization" that certain sectors advocate as a means of pressure in view of the government's refusal to negotiate?

[Canessa] First of all, I would say that the idea of social mobilization has been distorted through its association with the purportedly peaceful protests, which we all know end up in violence and death. If they think that they can apply enough pressure to fulfill their objectives, they do not know the Armed Forces and the Chilean people.

[Arthur] Do you believe that the exuberance of the opposition will be calmed by approving the political laws, as the government's plan seems to be?

[Canessa] Throughout this administration laws have not been passed to calm the opposition, enter into electoral compromises, or serve demagogery, as may have been the case in the past. The approval of the political laws will permit the gradual implementation of the 1980 Constitution, and this will satisfy most citizens. However, I feel that it will awaken no satisfaction among those who do not believe in the basic charter, nor will it satisfy those who seek to establish a Marxist totalitarian government in Chile. On the contrary, the two sectors will see that their chance to grasp power through pressure or violence capable of destabilizing the government will vanish.

Thus, I believe that many of those who are now demanding democracy find the consolidation of the 1980 Constitution inconvenient.

[Arthur] You disregard the proposals of certain political sectors, but as a Catholic, what is your position toward the attitude of the church, which has favored the reinstatement of democracy over all these years?

[Canessa] As a Catholic, I would like to see the church display more interest in its pastoral tasks among the Catholic community because we need it very much.

As to democracy, forgive me for repeating this once more, after saving the country from falling into the hands of the most cruel Marxist dictatorship, we are, in fact, firmly moving toward democracy in keeping with the 1980 Constitution. Is it not clear enough? Does someone want us to have some other kind of democracy? Maybe the one that collapsed in 1973? Or perhaps they want a "popular democracy"?

[Arthur] In your opinion, what is the role that the Armed Forces must play in this future democracy? Do you believe that they should be subordinate to civilian rule?

[Canessa] The Chilean Armed Forces have always been, and certainly are now, respectful and obedient to the constitutional and legally established rule. I used this expression on purpose rather than say subordinate to "civilian rule," because this implies a confrontation between civilians and military men, which is something I have never conceived or accepted. Within the framework of this idea, the Armed Forces must play the role the Constitution and the laws set forth for it, just as they have always done with due pride.

[Arthur] Of course, the 1980 Constitution endows them with additional powers and greater participation in the political activities through the National Security Council.

[Canessa] That is true, the Constitution endows the Armed Forces with these powers because the country went through a traumatic experience during which it almost lost its national identity. This made necessary certain protective measures that are bound to seem antidemocratic to those responsible for the events in 1973.

[Arthur] For some, future stability will depend, more than on anything else, on mutual understanding betwen the civilians and the military men. Would you say that the civilians do not understand the background of a military man and the way his mind works?

[Canessa] In those countries where the civilians and the military men know a great deal about each other, as would be the case in nations that have had the misfortune of participating in wars recently or in countries where military service is compulsory, the differences tend to be minimal. I feel that in Chile, the distrust or differences resulting from the lack of mutual understanding have declined over the last few years. The differences that may crop up now are greatly exacerbated by those who have political reasons to oppose the Armed Forces.

As far as I am concerned, to keep inventing these reasons to maintain or create differences shows a lack of maturity, seriousness, and civic mindedness. The right thing to do is to work always together for the good of the country, because after all we are all citizens of the same nation.

[Arthur] But why do you think that these very civilians, to whose cell the Armed Forces reacted in 1973 by taking over power, are now calling for democracy?

[Canessa] We all want democracy, Madame. But we want as much not to return to the situation that jeopardized the very survival of the fatherland. Whatever was done in 1973 was aimed at saving democracy, and everything done since has been directed at laying the foundation for a new democratic institutional order in keeping with the 1980 Constitution. This is what the citizenry you are talking about want. On the other hand, there are sectors or groups that want to scrap the Constitution by acting as if no such constitution ever existed. They want another constitution, similar to that of 1925, which finally fell apart in 1973.

There are also those who want democracy now, disregarding the institutional framework that has been built so far. This may be promoted by an unrealistic appreciation of the situation or an unbridled lust for power. Behind all this are the forces on international Marxism which are also after their own brand of democracy. But I do believe that it would be a mistake to say that the citizenry and these groups or sectors are all the same, because I can assure you that the latter do not represent the citizenry as a whole by a long shot.

ADM MERINO ON ELECTORAL LAW IMPASSE

PY101539 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Relay from Talcahuano by unidentified reporter]

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino said here today that the bill qualifying political parties is at a standstill because of discrepancies between the junta and the executive branch regarding the required number of members a party must have in order to be recognized. He also expressed his hope that the situation a strong and immovable position. Adm Merino today started a 3-day visit to Talcahuano to carry out his duties.

Regarding some reports which say that the United States had classified Chile by circling it with red ink to warn tourists of the possible dangers or risks they may run in Chile because of the changing state of social peace, the admiral said: Let the State Department maintain its opinions. As far as I am concerned, I would not visit either Chicago or San Francico because they are worse than Chile.

When requested to clarify the the comments he made yesterday that the government should be more firm after the abduction of a Carabinero in Santiago, he answered: It means just that, that the government will have to be more firm.

GOVERNMENT, PRC SIGN AGREEMENT TO ISSUE VISAS

PY100301 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Chile and the PRC have signed an agreement to issue diplomatic and official visas. This was reported by Chilean Foreign Ministry spokesman Pablo Valdes who said that this agreement was obtained during the goodwill mission touring the PRC headed by Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister Sergio Covarrubias.

[Begin Valdes recording] I would like to point out that on that occasion an agreement was signed to issue diplomatic and official visas between the PRC and Chile. Therefore, people from the two countries will be able to travel to either country with only a valid passport. The deputy minister paid a courtesy visit to Ye Fei, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. On this occasion the importance of the Chilean presence was noted. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that further agreements will be made with the PRC in the fields of transportation and science.

FOREIGN MINISTER OFF TO WASHINGTON, INDIA

PA071355 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran left for the United States today for a 7-day visit, during which he will meet with U.S. lawmakers and officials, including Secretary of State George Shultz. Before leaving for Washington, the foreign minister said the purpose of his visit is to follow up on various aspects of President Leon Febres Cordero's visit to the United States in January. It was learned that after his visit to the United States, Teran Teran will travel to India, where he will attend the meeting of ministers of the Nonaligned Movement, which will address problems peculiar to the Third World.

Visit Previewed

PA051246 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran will leave on Sunday for the United States, where he will try to get the U.S. Senate to exclude Ecuadoran oil from the $5 per barrel import tax. [as heard]. This was confirmed by Minister Teran Teran who, during a news conference, explained to newsmen the purpose of his trip. I am going to the United States to discuss the problems currently affecting the oil industry, mainly the drop in prices, a matter which is of constant concern for the Ecuadoran Government.

[Begin recording] The Foreign Minister must play an active role in matters that affect our international relations. Our actions are based on facts in order to guarantee the effectiveness of our mission. During my visit to the United States I expect to get a real view of the situation so that we can get to the bottom of what is happening. As you all realize, the oil problem is affecting our capacity to make investments, our balance of payments, and our budget. [end recording]

CENTRAL BANK MANAGER ON EFFECTS OF OIL PRICES

PA092008 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] In the first quarter of 1986 Ecuador sold its oil at an average of $16 to $17 a barrel, allowing the country to remain within the annual estimate of $14 a barrel, the Central Bank reported on the basis of the statements by its general manager, Carlos Julio Emmanuel. Shortly before leaving for the United States, Emmanuel stressed that no one in the country or in the world can at this time predict what the average oil price in 1986 will be.

Emmanuel stated that we are still above the estimated average price, the Central Bank bulletin reported. To reach an average price lower than $14, we would have to say that beginning in April and for the rest of 1986, the price will be much lower than that average. But, he insisted, no one can predict what will happen in the market. This is precisely one of the serious problems we face in handling the Ecuadoran economic policy. Emmanuel said: It is based on that estimate that we have adopted the economic decisions that give us some leeway, but we are waiting to see what might happen with regard to the oil price and for example, to a greater reduction in the budget and a more efficient administration of the tax resources to achieve a balanced budget.

CHURCH ISSUES STATEMENT ON ROLE IN POLITICS

PY091846 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 8 Apr 86 p 8

[Statement issued by the Asuncion Archbishop's Office on 7 April]

[Text] Recently, phrases that either directly or indirectly refer to bishops and priests have become common in our nation. These phrases need to be explained and deserve some reflection.

If people are not informed about the social doctrine of the church, it is easy to pass erroneous judgment on it, even if one harbors the best of intentions. To avoid these mistakes, it is the duty of all Catholics to become familiar with the documents issued by the pope, particularly those issued by the Vatican councils; and to read the them. It is also necessary to follow the actions of Pope John Paul II, such as his mediation of the political conflict between Argentina and Chile in the dispute over the Beagle Channel. Newspapers are not the source of religious doctrine, because their reports can be either distorted or false, depending on the source. But regarding the issue that concerns us, we recommend that people rely on the official documents issued by the church.

Meddling in Politics

We will not expand on the academic meaning of the doctrine but merely on the common and correct meaning of the word:

a) Politics in general: it is the art, science, and technique of governing a nation. The government of a nation refers to the well-being of its citizens and the community in general, that is, to those conditions that will promote and allow for their integral development. "The political dimension of man represents the relevant aspect of human coexistence. It is of an overall nature because its ultimate goal is the well-being of society." (Puebla 513)

Consequently, this phrase states the right of each citizen to participate in political activities and, even more important, his duty to participate in politics, because the people's well-being is the patrimony of everyone, and all citizens must strive to achieve it and defend it.

b) Politics in the restricted sense: It is equivalent to "political party politics"; it is the activity or activities of groups that aspire to be in power or to hold government posts. The existence of political parties is normal and positive in a democratic regime. Therefore, the phrase could mean: direct participation in a political party. A citizen is free to join that political party which attracts him because of its ideology, political platform, objectives or leadership. No political party has a magic formula for success. Political parties depend on their leaders, who, by implementing fantastic programs, can place their own interest above the well-being of the people. If this occurs there can be no politics but "politicking," as some day.

The Church Is Not Politics:

This also calls for some explanation.

a) The church in general, the people of God, is made up of the pope, the bishops, priests, deacons, and members in general. This new people of God, the church, was founded by Christ, and "He gave it a religious mission.

From this religious mission derive activities, visions, and energy that might help to establish and consolidate the human community in keeping with Divine law." (G.S. [church document entitled Gaudium Gt Spes] 42).

"The church, speaking in general terms .. feels it has a duty and a right to be present in this field of political reality -- because Christians must preach the gospel in all area of human existence, including at the political level." (p 515)

The Church Restricted to the Hierarchy -- Pope, Bishops, Priests

Now if someone denies the church hierarchy the right to act in politics -- in government, art, and technical activities -- or join political parties, on the grounds that "the church does not engage in politics," he is right. In this regard, canon law clearly and categorically states: Regulation 285/3: "The clergy shall be forbidden to accept posts that involve government duties," and Regulation 287/2: "The members of the clergy shall not become active political party members."

...However, if someone denies the hierarchy the right to express its opinion, give guidance, and report sociopolitical misdeeds in its effort to promote mankind's moral values, the common good, justice, truth, and freedom... he is wrong. As a human activity, politics has an essentially moral connotation. It is either good or bad and it is either in agreement or in disagreement with the doctrine of God and with His wish that all men achieve salvation. The Church hierarchy is primarily responsible for remaining faithful to the mission that Christ entrusted to it.

Christian laymen must act in politics, and they are encouraged to join a political party because as citizens they are responsible for the common good, and as Christians they can open a path for the Gospel (Ap. Act. 14) by properly discharging their duties in political posts. Christians who believe they can disregard their temporal tasks because of their religion are wrong, because they do not realize that their faith demands perfect fulfillment of all such tasks and the use of everyone's own abilities. Yet those who believe that religious life should remain totally outside temporal tasks, in the belief that religious life should be limited to some cult ceremonies and the observance of moral principles, are as wrong. The gap between religious faith and the routine life of many people should be considered one of the most serious mistakes in our time (G.S. 43).

The Paraguayan Episcopal Conference - On promoting the national dialogue, the Paraguayan church has done nothing but fulfill its mission of peace and reconciliation. The church is neither linked to nor dependent on any political party. Moreover, it is not committed to any party, despite the fact that it respects them all and considers them friends. Our intention and purpose is to help the Paraguayan people achieve unity and peace, in the belief that everyone has good intentions.

Teachings on Christian Freedom and Liberation

(Document approved by the pope and released on 22 March 1986 in Rome.) Herewith some ideas that refer to the subject we are addressing:

"The church, with its expertise in human affairs, offers in its social doctrine several principles for meditation, guidance for sound judgment, and guidelines to make sure that the changes that misery and injustice are calling for will truly benefit the people" (72).

The church is also being faithful to its mission when it reports the misdeeds, the subservience, and the oppression to which men are submitted. The church is being faithful to its mission when it opposes attempts to establish a society in which God has been left aside, either on purpose or out of negligence.

Finally, it is also being faithful to its mission when it expresses its opinion on the political movements that seek to struggle against misery and oppression following theories and methods that are against the Gospel and against mankind" (65). [quotation marks as reveived]

"The church does not veer from its mission when it raises its voice to ask for justice in mankind's society or when it asks laymen to work within society, using their own abilities. The church, however, tries to ensure that these temporal concerns do not prevail or become the only scope of its mission" (64).

"Whenever the church encourages the creation and the activities of associations -- such as the trade unions -- struggling for the defense of the rights and interests of the workers and of social justice, it does not admit at all the theory that sees class struggle as a dynamic factor of social life. The actions advocated by the church do not involve the struggle of one class against another seeking the elimination of an adversary. Such actions do not stem from an aberrant submission to an alleged historic law ...Christians will always prefer dialogue and agreements." (77).

GARCIA DEPARTS FOR 2-DAY VISIT TO URUGUAY

PY101137 Paris AFP in Spanish 1037 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (AFP) -- President Alan Garcia departed for Montevideo today at 0345 (0845 GMT). He was invited by Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti, and his official visit will last 48 hours. The president will sign a joint document with Sanguinetti after evaluating the problem of the foreign debt, the arms race, Latin American integration, and cooperation between Peru and Uruguay. Foreign Minister Allan Wagner is accompanying President Garcia.

ALVA CASTRO STATES CONDITIONS FOR PAYING IMF

PY082355 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1629 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 8 Apr (EFE) -- Prime Minister and Economy Minister Luis Alva Castro has stated that Peru will make a payment on its debt to the IMF for fiscal year 1985 if the IMF does not declare Peru "ineligible" for future credits. In statements to the newspaper LA REPUBLICA, Alva Castro states that the 1985 Peruvian debt to the IMF totaled $70 million which must be paid before 14 April 1986 in accordance with the terms set by the IMF. Nevertheless, Alva Castro failed to mention the amount of the payment which is currently being negotiated by Peruvian officials in the United States.

Alva Castro stated that that payment will be included within the 10 percent of export revenues which Peru has repeatedly stated will be the amount it will allocate yearly for paying its foreign debt which totals $14 billion. The Peruvian prime minister said that he was confident that Economy Deputy Minister Gustavo Saberbein and Central Reserve Bank chairman Leonel Figueroa will have positive results in the United States.

Alva Castro stated that since the current Peruvian Government of the Social Democratic APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] party took over on 28 July 1985, $70 million has been paid on overdue payments to the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The prime minister recalled during the interview that the current Peruvian Government never said that it would stop paying its foreign debt or that it would declare a unilateral moratorium for an undetermined period of time. Alva stressed the Peruvian Government will not permit the IMF to act as an intermediary with other creditors. Alva also insisted that Peru will not sign any agreement with the IMF because experience has shown that the IMF policies are harmful to the Peruvian economy.

BRIEFS

SUGAR WORKERS STRIKE -- Lima, 3 Apr (EFE) -- Nearly 15,000 workers of the Peruvian sugar cooperatives started a strike today, thus worsening the labor situation because of the ongoing 40-day-old stoppage being held by 17,000 miners of the state-owned enterprise Centrominperu [Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise]. The sugar workers blocked the North Pan-American Highway at km-200 asking the government to pay the subsidies it promised. Sugar workers union leader Maximo Polo Cruz has stated that in July 1985 the 12 Peruvian sugar cooperatives had a combined loss of $2.2 billion [Excerpt] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1647 GMT 3 Apr 86 PY]

SANGUINETTI WELCOMES PERU'S ALAN GARCIA

PY101451 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1424 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 10 Apr (EFE) -- Peruvian President Alan Garcia today arrived in Montevideo on a 48-hour official visit. President Julio Maria Sanguinetti welcomed his Peruvian counterpart after the latter's plane landed at the Carrasco Airport at 1118 local time (1413 GMT). Dozens of people standing on the balconies of the airport waved Uruguayan and Peruvian flags to welcome Garcia despite an intermittent drizzle. The entire cabinet was waiting for the Peruvian president and his entourage which comprises Garcia's wife Pilar Nores Bordeau, Foreign Minister Allan Wagner, Education Minister Grover Pango Vildoso, and Aeurnautics Minister Jose Guerra Lorenzetti, among others.

Agenda Outlined

PY102251 Paris AFP in Spanish 1649 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 10 Apr (AFP) -- Peruvian President Alan Garcia this morning arrived in Uruguay on an official 48-hour visit during which he will seek to strengthen bilateral ties. Garcia, who arrived at Carrasco Airport at 1430 GMT, was received by his Uruguayan counterpart Julio Maria Sanguinetti and by the entire Uruguayan cabinet.

In the first speech he delivered during his stay in Uruguay, the Peruvian president advocated joint action for tackling the region's current problems. He added: Our action will not be based on the negative factors which are common to the Latin American peoples. For his part, Sanguinetti told his guest that his country is an expression of progress and strength because of its devotion to integration.

After his arrival the visitor went to downtown Montevideo to begin a busy agenda. Today, he is to lay a wreath at the monument to Uruguayan hero Jose Artigas, address Congress, and have lunch with Sanguinetti. In the evening Garcia will attend a reception hosted by the Uruguayan president.

On 11 April Garcia will receive the keys of the city and will attend a special session of the city council, which will name a street after Raul Haya de la Torre, the founder of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]. The young Peruvian president is a member of this party. Garcia will visit the Supreme Court and the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) headquarters. He will also hold a private meeting with Sanguinetti at Government House. In the afternoon, the two presidents will sign the agreements reached during the visit and then host a press conference.

On the morning of 12 April Garcia will end his visit to Uruguay, the fourth country he has visited since he took over as Peruvian president in mid-1985. Sources close to Garcia have said in Montevideo that the central point of his visit will be his appearance before Congress, where he will address the Uruguayan people. According to the sources, the joint statement to be signed by the two presidents will deal with the region's debt, arms race, integration, and bilateral relations.

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES THREATEN U.S. TARGETS

PA101411 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Apr 86 p 24A

[By Franklin Bosquez D'Giovanni]

[Text] A communique with no responsible signature, but whose content this newspaper is publishing because it considers it of national interest, has warned that the so-called "Revolutionary Committees of Panama" [Comites Revolucionarios de Panama -- CRP] "will attack U.S. positions" in this country, without ruling out either the embassy or the canal. Dated 27 March and under the title of "We Will Attack U.S. Interests in Panana," the aforementioned communique was received at LA PRENSA yesterday. It is not yet known how it arrived at the newspaper. Although this newspaper's policy is to throw out any report that is not backed by a responsible signature or signatures, this communique is in response to the dispute that has been going on between the U.S. and Libyan Governments for the past several weeks.

"The Yankee scourge is spreading threateningly throughout the world, encouraging interventions, encouraging a third and final world war, strangling the economies of nations, and sponsoring aggressions against the Nicaraguan and Libyan peoples," the document states. It added that the "Black House," in a derogatory reference to the U.S. White House, has not understood the lesson of history which indicates that the outstanding sign of this era is the strengthening of the national liberation movements and socialism at the world level.

The CRP believes that the strike of the masses which ended some days ago and was promoted by the National Council of organized Workers (Conato) was the "organized reply of the popular masses to the Yankee arrogance and imposition and against the traitorous action of the IMF government of (Eric Arturo) Delvalle." According to the CRP, all these events have forced the peoples to seek "means of struggle" that will guarantee respect for their national independence and sovereignty. "If the United States intensifies its campaign of blackmail in our country and attacks Libya and Nicaragua, the CRP will attack U.S. positions," the communique concluded.

LABOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCES END OF BANANA STRIKE

PA101935 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The strike by banana workers in Puerto Armuelles ended today. Deputy Labor Minister Agustin Sellhorn said the following:

[Begin recording] [Sellhorn] I am pleased to announce to the citizens on behalf of Labor Minister Jorge Federico Lee that a strike settlement was achieved at approximately 0515 today, 10 April.

[Unidentified Reporter] With the end of the strike, what will be the next step in view of the fact that some of the plantation areas will be closed due to their advanced state of deterioration? Does this mean that personnel will be dismissed?

[Sellhorn] No, this will not entail dismissal of personnel. At the request of the Labor Ministry, Euclides Diaz of the National Banana Commission has been undertaking an on-site evaluation for the past 3 days to look into the current condition of the plantations to evaluate the losses. The executive will be given this report so that he will have firsthand reliable information and then an evaluation will be undertaken. But I reiterate, this does not mean that there will be dismissals. On the contrary, one of the main principles involved in lifting the strike is guarantees that there will be no labor force reduction in the Puerto Armuelles area. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR GUATEMALA MEETING

PA102327 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez left for Guatemala at approximately 0600 today. He left with Deputy Foreign Minister-designate Carlos Rivera Banchini. The main purpose of the trip is to prepare for the next meeting of regional presidents in Esquipulas in May. The presidents will basically discuss economic, social, and political problems affecting this region. The meeting of foreign ministers is slated to take place on 11 and 12 April.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR EXPECTED -- San Jose, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Jesus Cabrera Munoz Ledo, the ambassador appointed by the Mexican Government to replace Luisa Maria Leal Ocampo, will arrive in this country on 18 April, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has reported. [Excerpt] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1408 GMT 4 Apr 86 FL]

MINOR DEVALUATION -- The Central Bank has decreed the fourth minor devaluation during 1986. As of today the rate of exchange of the U.S. currency will be 54.50 colones for purchases and 55.25 colones for sales. This new minor devaluation is equivalent to 30 centimos of a colon. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Apr 86 PA]

EL SALVADOR

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON CONTADORA MEETING

PA092351 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Apr 86

[By Carlos Mario Marquez]

[Text] El Salvador today sent a note to the Contadora Group secretariat in Panama confirming its willingness to attend forthcoming meetings prior to signing the final document on 6 June. Vice President and Foreign Minister Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount today held a press conference and reported on a meeting he held with members of the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the Central American representatives. He said:

[Begin recording] It was decided that Contadora needed renewed efforts, not because of cosmetic purposes or because some countries that have been involved in the process have left at an opportune time [as heard], but because we all admitted that there is a very dangerous vacuum right now in Central America. This vacuum allows and promotes policies that are not specifically aimed at guaranteeing peace in Central America. These policies are promoted in Central America specifically by Nicaragua, as well as by countries outside the region that seek other interests in this region.

It was decided that this vacuum could only be filled by creating a political and legal system that can be checked out and that creates the conditions of [word indistinct] for all in Central America. This system can be best described in the document that is called the act for peace and cooperation for Central America, in other words, what is commonly referred to as the Contadora act.

Allow me to tell you that all of us admitted that this document, the Contadora act, is one of the most precise documents that have been drafted in the history of mankind to create conditions that will prevent war. Very few documents in the history of mankind -- hear this well -- have reached this point of being so specific, with so many details, creating organizations, mechanisms, and methods to guarantee the best and greatest conditions for peace in a region.

Thus, the Contadora act is a document that guarantees everyone, in an equal manner... [changes thought] and to this effect this document establishes that it is absolutely unnecessary.[sentence as heard] [end recording]

Government To Sign Peace Plan

PA100353 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Government, just like the Governments of Honduras and Costa Rica, will continue the negotiations and sign the Contadora peace plan, Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount, Salvadoran vice president and foreign minister, said today.

Castillo Claramount said during a press conference held at the Foreign Ministry that the Governments of Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador agreed in Panama to end the Contadora peace plan negotiations by signing the document on 6 June 1986.

Castillo Claramount added that "Nicaragua has again been an obstacle in signing the document, which not only benefits Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador, but also Nicaragua."

Castillo Claramount reported that the Salvadoran Government decided to continue the negotiations and sign the Contadora peace plan with or without Nicaragua because it is the only instrument that can guarantee peace in the region.

"Nicaragua has appeared before the eyes of the 12 countries that participated in the meeting and the Marxist countries as the country that does not want peace," Castillo Claramount pointed out. The Contadora peace plan, he said, establishes rights and duties, "and Nicaragua does not want to submit to those duties."

The Nicaraguan Government says it will not sign the peace plan so long as its sovereignty is threatened by the U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

Castillo Claramount disagreed with those who say that Contadora peace efforts have ended.

GENERAL BLANDON REPORTS ON MILITARY OPERATIONS

PA102350 San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, termed as successful and professional work the antisubversive operation carried out by the Salvadoran Army during the first 4 months of 1986.

First Gen Blandon talked about the 78 days since "Operation Phoenix" was launched and which has been a major factor in dismantling one of the main terrorist redoubts on Guazapa Hill.

[Begin recording] Regarding 1986, I would say that we started with a highly effective operation in the area of Guazapa. Today marks the 78th day since this operation was launched. This is "Operation Phoenix."

We also have been operating on the north side of Chalatenango. First we were in the eastern sector, then we moved to the central zone. These actions were carried out as part of the "Lieutenant Chavez Carreno Operation," which was also a military success.

We also have been operating along the Lempa River, in the northwestern part of Chalatenango Department, which borders Santa Ana and La Libertad Departments, where units of the 2d Infantry Brigade have been constantly operating. We also have kept a battalion in the northern zone of Morazan Department, which has been operating from east to west in the extreme northern zone of Morazon Department.

Another important operation has been carried out in Nuevo Eden de San Juan, San Miguel Department, by units of the 3d Infantry Brigade, which has been in control of the zone for a considerable period.

We have carried out another operation in Chalatenango Department, along the coast, in the zone of the Lempa River mouth, used for some time by the terrorists as their route to obtain supplies. The 6th Military Zone command and Marine Infantry Battalion have been operating here. [end recording]

Gen Blandon also said that parallel to these actions, the brigades form all the garrisons in the western part of the country have been conducting patrol operations to prevent the terrorists from fleeing to that sector of the country.

Speaking about the results of the military operations, Gen Blandon reported that the Army killed 86 terrorists and also wounded an undisclosed number. He also reported the death of 14 soldiers and 76 wounded, most of them caused by the terrorist mines.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO REJECTS PRESSURE FROM PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

PA101432 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0246 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Christian Democratic President Vinicio Cerezo said today that he "is ready to face any destabilizing action by businessmen."

The Guatemalan president said he would be firm in "not accepting pressure" against his economic and social reorganization plan by the Coordinating Committee of Farming, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations (CACIF). Even though the CACIF is a powerful organization that includes all the country's economically powerful sectors" and could influence action against the government which took office on 14 January, President Cerezo said he has "all the necessary support." [quotation marks as received]

"The National Police and the Army are at the service of the president. Therefore, I do not think they can act nor are we afraid," Cerezo said referring to private enterprise, which has influenced previous administrations in the application of economic and fiscal measures.

Regarding CACIF's proposal on Monday for the "sale of state enterprises that are subsidized or have deficits," Cerezo said that "they will be reorganized." He said that some of them like the Guatel [Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise], "have tripled their revenue and have reduced their expenditures as part of the reorganization and the eradication of the corruption that existed in the past."

President Cerezo stressed that his "government will not sell to private enterprises or to foreign enterprises any of the state enterprises that are subsidized." He added: "I am not afraid because I have popular support. I will not take a step back in the decisions that are made to implement the economic reorganization plan."

Regarding the people's protests against the high cost of living in the past 8 days, Cerezo said that "the people are right because they are experiencing a national emergency due to hunger."

"People get impatient about the economic problems, but that is part of democracy," the president said.

"The people are protesting," he said, "because now they have the freedom to do so, and this is beneficial for the country because it shows that there is an essential change from the past 12 years."

"I myself," he stressed, "have asked everyone to exercise their right to make requests because in this way we can try to reach a point of consensus, and I am confident that we will achieve it by 90 percent in a week." President Cerezo said that in the face of the opposition of private enterprise and the union sector against his economic plan, this plan "must be just and balanced in relation to those two sectors." Nevertheless, he said that just as he promised during his political campaign, "the government seeks a balance, but those who for decades have had less must be favored."

"I believe that the economic and fiscal laws that we will propose to congress," Cerezo said, "will lay more just foundations for the society but before this is done we have to reorganize the economy." This is precisely why he wants to establish a 30 to 80 percent tax on exports, because otherwise "we would be unable to invest 104 million quetzales (officially on a par with the dollar) in salary increases for the bureaucrats, 100 million quetzales to create jobs, and 100 million to reduce the fiscal deficit of 352 million quetzales."

The Christian Democratic president said that despite the "suggestions from international financial organizations such as the IMF about devaluing the currency, the quetzal will be revalued to a rate of 1.70 quetzales to the dollar, which has been sold at rate of 3 and 4 to 1."

"The opposition of the groups and sectors that have never paid taxes is natural, but we must all make a sacrifice, and the benefits will be seen at the end of the year," he added. Cerezo stressed that "the majority of the people expect quick changes and are impatient, "but they are political leaders and not God." [sentence and quotation marks as received]

FOREIGN MINISTERS TO PLAN ESQUIPULAS MEETING

PA102015 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Apr 86 p 6

[Text] Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle has reported that the Central American foreign ministers are expected in Guatemala as part of the preparations for the meeting of presidents scheduled to be held in Esquipulas in May.

Vice President Carpio said that Foreign Ministers Miguel D'Escoto of Nicaragua; Carlos Lopez Contreras of Honduras; Rodolfo Castillo Claramount of El Salvador; and Carlos Jose Gutierrez of Costa Rica have confirmed their arrival tomorrow. Their objective is to discuss the agenda of the presidential meeting. the goal of which is to form a Central American parliament. The call for this parliament was made by President Cerezo on the day of his inauguration as Guatemalan president. Carpio also announced that the Central American vice presidents will arrive on 24 and 25 April to finalize the arrangements for the meeting. He added that the meeting will be held in the rear section of the basilica of the temple of Esquipulas.

Foreign Minister Mario Quinones Amezquita said upon confirming that the area's foreign ministers will be arriving tomorrow that "the Contadora peace efforts will not be discussed at all."

Prospects for Summit Viewed

PA102020 San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish 4-10 Apr 86 p 14

[By Gonzalo Marroquin]

[Text] Amid the serious Central American crisis, President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo is planning to achieve a "concerted effort" with his area colleagues and promote the idea of a regional parliament that could become a forum for political discussions. Cerezo's summons to a "summit" in Esquipulas, a Guatemalan city located in the eastern sector of the country, suggests the first possibility for the five presidents of the isthmus to discuss the situation.

The idea of a "Central American parliament" was suggested by Cerezo himself after he was elected president in December. The Governments of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, have agreed to discuss the proposal; however, none of the presidents have expressed open support for this plan.

The "summit" in Esquipulas is scheduled for late May after Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias has been sworn in and the government changes in the area complete. Cerezo and Honduran President Jose Azcona are two of the new leaders.

According to political and diplomatic observers in Guatemala, the Christian Democratic government is showing interest in recovering the political leadership in the area, an this is reflected in the activity it has begun in the area of foreign policy. First, this country's "active neutrality" was confirmed, particularly in the face of the conflict between Nicaragua and its neighbors, Costa Rica and Honduras. At the same time, public support was expressed for the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group.

The idea of a Central American parliament" was added to this position. Even though it is viewed with some suspicion by some diplomatic sectors, it does suggest the possibility for the creation of a forum in which discussions could be held to revolve the conflicts of the area. However, those who are not very convinced by this idea feel that it is an alternative that can harm Contadora while becoming a final option to extend any negotiation that may fail within the peacemaking group.

However, Cerezo continues in his attempt and, despite the recent border conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua, he remains determined to sit down and talk with his colleagues in Esquipulas. These talks will undoubtedly be closely followed by the world.

One of the most outstanding aspects of this "summit" is to have the presidents of the countries in conflict, especially Daniel Ortega and Jose Napoleon Duarte, sitting at the same table. These two presidents have publicly expressed their feelings, even their personal feelings about each other.

If positive results are the outcome of the Esquipulas meeting, President Cerezo would assume leadership in the region, and in some way, Guatemala could become the main character in the Central American conflict.

Cerezo will go to the "summit" with an advantage. Guatemala is the only country in the area that has not been involved in a serious conflict with its neighbors of the isthmus and, within the Contadora Group, it has promoted the position of a negotiated solution rather than the militarization of the conflict. With all this in his favor, the Guatemalan president trusts that positive agreements in the search for peace will be reached and, that his colleagues support the idea of a "Central American parliament."

Guatemala has also said that Central America "can coexist with a Marxist Nicaragua." This was said by General Oscar Mejia Victores, former Guatemalan head of state, in September. This is something else that Guatemala has in its favor.

The five men that lead the destinies of more than 20 million Central Americans will meet in Esquipulas. This meeting could decide the future of the region and show the way to peace...or war.

ARMY REPORTS CLASHES WITH REBELS IN ALTA VERAPAZ

PA102020 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Apr 86 p 8

[Text] According to reports from the Army public relations office, two clashes between military patrols and rebel groups took place on 5 and 6 April in the vicinity of the oil fields in Chinaja, Alta Verapaz. The reports indicate that the patrols met rebel groups during search operations and shoot-outs ensued.

The office said that it was believed at the beginning that the insurgents had suffered no casualties, but in a new search the Army found equipment belonging to rebels wounded or killed during the clashes as well as bloodstains in vast areas of the jungle. The report added that the Army has established surveillance and control over the area, where some foreign companies are exploring for black gold. According to Navy Captain Juan Fernando Cifuentes Herrera, the Army suffered no casualties.

HONDURAS

SECURITY TIGHTENED AT U.S. INSTALLATIONS

PA110205 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0125 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The United States has established strict security measures at all U.S. installations in Honduras in the face of possible attacks by Libyan terrorist groups on instruction of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, a radio station in this capital reported this afternoon.

A spokesman of the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa said that U.S. intelligence intercepted communications between the Libyan guerrillas and their representatives in Nicaragua "issuing specific instructions to launch a campaign of terrorism in Honduras."

The radio station also said that the embassy, military installations, and U.S. businesses in Honduras have taken up a heavy guard in the face of possible threats.

Due to the tense relations between Libya and the United States, Al-Qadhdhafi made a series of threats against U.S. installations throughout the world.

The alleged terrorist attacks in Honduras reportedly would be coordinated from Nicaragua, in view of the close relations and friendship existing between the Libyan leader and this Central American country, according to the U.S. sources. The U.S. mission in Honduras in one of the largest in Latin America. There are some 4,500 U.S. troops in this country and similar number is expected to arrive on 15 April to begin new joint military maneuvers and exercises with Honduran troops.

The United States currently has military installations in the northern, central, southern, and eastern parts of the country in which new and strict security measures have been implemented. Similar measures have been taken regarding the embassy, the residence of Ambassador John Ferch and the personnel of the embassy. The U.S. Embassy maintains permanent communications with the Honduran military to remain vigilant to any terrorist attack on the part of Libyan groups.

In Nicaragua there are several Libyan military advisers as well as others from the socialist bloc, and according to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega "that is a right which it has as a free nation."

Reports of possible attacks on U.S. installations in Honduras have to do with the Libyan presence in Nicaragua, according to the U.S. Embassy spokesman in Tegucigalpa.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT ON DIFFICULT NATIONAL POSITION

PA100413 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Carlos Montoya, National Congress president, discussed the border situation between Honduras and Nicaragua. He said that the conflict with Nicaragua becomes more and more dangerous with each passing day and that this brings us closer to an armed confrontation with that neighboring country. It is difficult to remain neutral being, as we are, in the hurricane's eye, yet we cannot send the contras to their deaths by violently expelling them from Honduras. Nicaragua does not want a peaceful solution.

As might be recalled, the Congress president has been severely critized for some statements he made a few days ago. He said that Honduras should allow the United States to advise the counterrevolutionaries. Montoya has said the conflict with Nicaragua becomes more dangerous with each passing day and that this brings the country closer to a military confrontation with Nicaragua. These are Montoya's statements to reporter Andres Torres.

[Begin recording] [Torres] Does Contadora's failure bring us closer to armed confrontation with Nicaragua?

[Montoya] During the Latin American Parliament's meeting in Guatemala City we met with a refusal to seek a dialogue for the region's governments to find the proper mechanisms to avoid an escalation of the confrontation at the Honduran border. We anticipated that Contadora would not achieve any results.

Our position, however, must be maintained because Contadora is the only feasible alternative for peace. I feel that escalation at the border will be unavoidable if the Nicaraguan Government continues to maintain an inflexible and cold stance. Whether a war between Honduras and Nicaragua or a war between the revolution and the counterrevolutionaries occurs, we would necessarily be affected.

[Torres] Are you talking about the negative Nicaraguan position at the Latin American Parliament?

[Montoya] Yes, the position of not accepting any compromise as long as there are armed counterrevolutionary activities on the border with Nicaragua. In addition, the Nicaraguan Government does not want to talk with the counterrevolutionaries, but with President Reagan. Naturally, such a narrow position generates conflict.

[Torres] Do you think that the best thing would be an escalation of the armed conflict? [question as heard]

[Montoya] No, I dream of a peaceful solution, that the Nicaraguan Government can reach an agreement with the opposition and broadly discuss a solution for the political problem in Nicaragua based on the Nicaraguan Government's commitments made at the OAS when it was the FSLN in 1979, and that the opposition's proposals can be considered. The opposition wants the cessation of the state of emergency and the arms race, a full and unconditional amnesty, and a formula in the new constitution for a pure electoral process embodying full guarantees for everyone. I feel that peaceful solution can be reached through these goals and a dialogue with the religious, political, and military opposition. Apparently, however, the regime flatly refuses this dialogue.

[Torres] Do you see a danger of war between Honduras and Nicaragua?

[Montoya] Yes, all of us see and feel it. We will always try to keep the country neutral and not intervene in this conflict. The occurrence of clashes at the border, however, will get the country involved in the conflict. Our Armed Forces' common sense, goodwill, and ability can keep us as a nation removed from an involvement in the conflict. The conflicts occurring at our border are still within control. The difficult thing to prevent, which we must strive is to prevent, is our country being directly involved in the conflict.

[Torres] Those who analyze the situation, however, say that the remedy lies with Azcona, that he can forbid the counterrevolutionaries to operate in Honduran territory.

[Montoya] That is not easy. Where would the many armed men who swarm at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border go?

[Torres] What would happen if the $100 million in aid for them [the contras] is not approved? What is Honduras going to do with so many armed people? That is also dangerous.

[Montoya] It is dangerous, indeed. Their presence is always dangerous, with or without the $100 million. The problem is still there. We cannot send them into a confrontation in Nicaragua by violently expelling them from Honduras.

[Torres] To suicide.

[Montoya] To suicide, if the region's countries do not help us. I protested in Guatemala. No one helps us with the refugees, much less with the contras.

It is very easy to criticize Honduras' stance, but it is very difficult to be in Honduras' shoes. We cannot send those thousands of men to their deaths, as you have said. Neither can we allow part of our territory to be occupied without our authorities' jurisdiction. Neither can we go on keeping thousands and thousands of refugees. We have more than 70,000. We need support from the Latin American governments. As I said before, what governments have allowed us to send them 10,000 refugees? Neither Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Peru, Guatemala, nor Mexico. This is why we have this conflict on our shoulders. Our stance is most difficult. We must keep neutral in the hurricane's eye. This is most difficult, yet we make great efforts with very good intentions. [end recording]

EDITORIAL PRAISES AZCONA'S STANCE ON NICARAGUA

PA101735 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 9 Apr 86 p 1

[Text] There can be no doubt about the effectiveness of the message President Azcona Hoyo delivered on Friday, 4 April, nor can there be any doubt about his own or his government's conviction that Honduras' and the other Central American democracies' greatest enemy is the communist dictatorial regime in Nicaragua. Azcona's is a concrete political definition our people need in response to the Sandinist's unbounded arms capability, and their expansive and penetrating powers. This institutional statement by Mr Azcona's government was needed because Honduras could not remain undecided, especially when we know that the consolidation of the communist dictatorship in Nicaragua means that Honduras could be its first victim. Our government's decision to face the Sandinists' expansionistic policies, which could affect our fatherland's security, is the logical response Hondurans expected because most of us embrace the cause of liberty, firmly rejecting the left's propaganda, that of their comrades on the same path, and the propaganda of the "unwitting fools" who -- regardless of their viewpoint -- submit to their Sandinist bosses like jealous guardians of the people's peace and prosperity. [sentence as published] President Azcona's message became even more significant after the Sandinist regime's refusal to sign the peace document promoted by the Contadora Group.

EL SALVADOR TO NEGOTIATE REFUGEES' REPATRIATION

PA102218 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo left today for Costa Rica to meet with UNHCR officials and negotiate the repatriation of the Salvadoran refugees in Honduras. Foreign Ministry sources said that the repatriation of approximately 30,000 Salvadorans is a humanitarian action that will be carried out through a joint commission of El Salvador, Honduras, and the UNHCR.

The sources added that the repatriation is on a voluntary basis, pointing out that Acevedo's visit to the UNHCR offices in Costa Rica shows the Salvadoran Government's interest in resolving the delicate problem. Last August, the Honduran Army raided the Colomoncagua refugee camp, leaving a toll of three dead and several wounded, according to the Catholic Church.

According to the Salvadoran guerrillas, the repatriation of the refugees is being done in view of the U.S. Government's pressures to clear the Honduran-El Salvador border area. The official sources claim that UNHCR's participation in the repatriation is done on the basis of goodwill and that the refugees are adequately treated in the camps.

AUTHORITIES PREPARED TO CLAIM MEANGUERA ISLAND

PA101315 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 9 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] Pedro Pineda Madrid, a member of the joint border commission, said yesterday that the government has the documents to prove at the International Court of Justice in The Hague that Meanguera Island belongs to Honduras. Furthermore, Honduras has the necessary proof to make a formal allegation regarding the position of the territory disputed with El Salvador, once the case is taken to the International Court, Pineda said.

Direct negotiations with the Salvadorans for the demarcation and delimitation tasks end on 10 June and, according to the General Peace Treaty, on the following day either of the two nations can approach the International Court.

Pineda Madrid said that he does not believe that either side will approach this high court on 11 June, although this is allowed by the treaty. Nevertheless, Honduras will be as diligent as usual, because we have never failed to meet a deadline or the execution of any process, and we have always fulfilled the law, Pineda said.

Meanwhile, he said that the alleged failure of the Contadora Group could affect negotiations with El Salvador, not juridically but politically, due to the alleged support Nicaragua provides to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

GASOLINE STATIONS AUTHORIZED TO REOPEN ON WEEKENDS

PA102238 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Agreement No 248-86, issued by the Economy and Commerce Secretariat on 4 April -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Economy and Commerce Secretariat, Tegucigalpa, D.C., 4 April 1986. Agreement No 248-86.

The constitutional president of the Republic, whereby:

Agreement No 383-79, dated 6 July 1979, established that gasoline stations were to close during the evening hours, that is from 2100 to 0500, as well as during the weekends, that is from 2100 on Saturday through 2400 on Sunday;

That measure was adopted with the purpose of rationing the consumption of fuels and petroleum by-products to counter the negative effects in the balance of payments resulting from the increase in the prices of crude oil in the international market;

The sectors involved in marketing the petroleum by-products and fuels have been pointing out that this measure is inadequate under the present circumstances;

The consumers have also questioned this disposition;

Therefore:

Making use of the powers granted by Paragraph 11, Article 245 of the Constitution, and according to Legislative Decree No 129 dated 5 February 1971, and Decree-Law No 91 dated 8 November 1973,

Be it resolved to:

1. Abolish agreement No 383-79 through the Economy and Commerce in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE, and therefore, made public.

[Signed] Jose Simon Azcona Hoyo, president of the Republic; Reginaldo Panting, secretary of state in the Economy and Commerce Secretariat

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA ANALYZES NATIONAL SITUATION

PA110115 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] The comrade president today analyzed the current policy prevailing in Nicaragua due to the U.S. aggression.

[Begin Ortega recording] The U.S. Congress has no legal or moral right to debate the approval of $100 million, or $30 million, or $70 million, and under what conditions to attack the Nicaraguan people. Therefore, we have rejected and continue to reject that debate. We reject that debate because it is immoral and violates international laws.

We have also witnessed a great Latin American effort, the effort exerted by the Contadora Group and the Lima Group; eight Latin American countries that have adopted a clear position concerning the U.S. Government's policy against Nicaragua. They have clearly stated that they do not agree with the United States' policy of force, with the United States' aggressive policy against Nicaragua. They have clearly stated that they reject the approval of dollars, either $1 or $100 million, for the mercenary forces, they reject this. In addition, these countries have issued some proposals, and we have learned about those proposals and [words indistinct] what is known as the Contadora Document. There are two Contadora documents: the document of September 1984, which was accepted by Nicaragua; and another Contadora document, which was presented in September 1985. This was the 1984 document, but it had been amended. The document had been amended due to the great pressures exerted by the United States, seeking a proposal that will not resolve the problem. We reject the 1985 proposal, we reject it.

We reject the 1985 proposal, and then the Caraballeda document was issued in January of this year. That is a beach resort like this one, located in Venezuela. The Lima Group and Contadora Group foreign ministers met there, to discuss the situation which prevails in the region; then they issued the Caraballeda document. Then the Latin American representatives went to the United States to hold an interview with Secretary Shultz and tell him: Look, you have to meet with Nicaragua. You have to talk with Nicaragua; you have to hold a dialogue with Nicaragua.

What was the U.S. Government's reply? The U.S. Government's reply was to step up its policy against Nicaragua; that was the reply. [end recording]

The Nicaraguan leader met this morning with 700 evangelical pastors who are participating in a retreat sponsored by the Evangelical Committee for Development Aid at the resort of La Botita.

Insists on Dialogue With U.S.

PA110118 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0006 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] La Boquita 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaragua is studying the "Panama communique" issued by the Contadora Group, to state its stand in the coming days, President Daniel Ortega announced today.

On 7 April the Contadora Group and Support Group foreign ministers released a communique after 3 days of negotiations setting 6 June as the deadline for signing the regional peace treaty.

Ortega referred to the "Panama communique" during a meeting with Evangelical pastors in this beach resort of the Pacific, 70 kms from Managua. Contadora and the Support Group or Lima Group invited the five Central American governments to resume negotiations immediately on the control and reduction of arms and international military maneuvers that were pending negotiation. Ortega commented on the attacks launched at the international level against Nicaragua accusing the Managua government of being responsible for the failure to peacefully resolve the regional conflict.

The Nicaraguan leader said that the Sandinist government "has been flexible" regarding the proposals made by Contadora, which is comprised of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama. Ortega did not say anything on the statement that is being prepared. However, he noted that "it is necessary that Latin Americans unite to resolve the principal problem, which is to seek an end to the aggression and that the United States dialogue with Nicaragua to set the peace process in motion in Central America.

The Nicaraguan president reiterated that the Sandinists are disposed to dialogue with "the chiefs of the contras" who "are in the White House, in the Pentagon, and in the State Department" of the United States.

The president recalled that Nicaragua agreed to sign the first peace document drafted by Contadora in September in 1984. He added that the government of this country did not agree to sign the second document of the diplomatic group because it had been amended as a result of the U.S. pressures "seeking a response that does not solve the conflict."

The eight foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and the Support Group gave an 8-day deadline to the governments of the region beginning 7 April to respond to aspects of the new document whose points are pending negotiation.

Document Under Study

PA110039 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0013 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Nicaragua will determine its official stand on signing the peace document for the Central American region. President Commander Daniel Ortega reiterated that Nicaragua remains willing to sign the peace document if the United States ceases its aggression against Nicaragua. Let us listen to the president referring to the peace document.

[Begin recording] Nicaragua is studying, becoming familiar with the Contadora Document [Words indistinct] in Panama, because some countries and some governments manipulated by the United States have already started screaming that Nicaragua refused to accept the Contadora peace proposal in Panama.

(?They have even) said that Nicaragua is responsible for the fact that the situation has not been solved yet, that the problem has not been solved by peaceful means. [Words indistinct] Nicaragua has followed a constructive, flexible stane that is evident [word indistinct] in the Contadora Group. We are studying very carefully the latest document that was (?drafted) in Panama. [Words indistinct] we will then announce a formal stand in connection with this document.

What I can say now is that it is necessary for Latin America to join efforts in order to solve the main problem here, which is the U.S. [words indistinct] Nicaragua. [end recording]

EDITORIAL ON WHY CONTADORA DOCUMENT NOT SIGNED

PA100156 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Apr 86 p 2

[Editorial: "Why We Do Not Sign"; upper case passages published in italics]

[Text] Contadora's petition to three U.S. congressmen requesting the U.S. Congress to postpone the discussion on the $100 million in aid to continue financing the war against Nicaragua has some traces of the Nicaraguan realism of refusing to sign any document as long as the U.S. aggression does not cease. However, this petition is to some extent a guarantee of this illegal and immoral discussion. There is a discussion because there is a war against our country, and if the war ceases then the discussion would be useless.

Nicaragua is not asking to postpone anything. It is asking for an end to all Yankee interference and mercenary activity against our country. This is why we have not signed, because "WE CANNOT MAKE A COMMITMENT THAT WE WILL NOT GET ARMS AS LONG AS WE HAVE THAT THREAT ON OUR BORDERS."

Meanwhile, the three unconditional allies of the United States -- Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica — in their war against Nicaragua were exerting pressure for a more or less immediate signing of a document that leaves the main factor of the regional conflict out of the commitments. That factor, the United States, would be absolutely free to continue its aggression and to make a bloody mockery out of any Central American agreement at the expense of Nicaragua.

If we were to count the war-like support the United States has given with interest to its Central American allies and to the counterrevolution -- its fourth military ally in the region — among the list of factors that provoke the aggression, and thus the conflict, we would have a TIED DOWN Nicaragua facing the main enemy. Perhaps we should say facing the only enemy, because none of the U.S.' four allies -- including the counterrevolution, of course — would be sufficiently dangerous for our stability even if they were determined to be our enemies.

The hostility displayed by the three mentioned countries to Nicaragua would be reduced to a mere political-ideological conflict -- very natural, by the way -- and the Somozist counterrevolution would have been immersed long ago in its impotent hatred, in the usual hatred, but also with the same impotence that prevented them from resisting the people's rebellion. From whatever point we view the matter, it is clear that the United States is the only one responsible for the regional crisis and of the war.

Before this unquestionable reality, and unless it changes, no document or anything else that could help resolve the Central American problem will be signed.

This is Nicaragua's position, and this is the position expressed by the Nicaraguan foreign minister during the recent meeting of the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the five Central American foreign ministers.

Therefore, it is not, as the pro-U.S. propaganda seeks to portray it in the regional press, a mere fancy of Nicaragua to refuse to sign the document. It is also not a simple question of the good and the bad intentions of wishing to sign now and refusing to sign later, if we recall that Nicaragua was willing to sign the original peace document, dated September 1984, and then the Caraballeda documents, and that it now refuses to sign it, as was previously noted. [sentence as published]

It is a vital matter for Nicaragua. There will always be aggression as long as the United States has not made a commitment to cease it, regardless of the many signatures of all Latin American foreign ministers. The origin is there; there is no need to search for it elsewhere.

MINISTERIAL DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR GUATEMALA

PA100047 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Statement issued by the Press and Information Directorate of the Foreign Ministry in managua on 9 April; read by Foreign Ministry spokesperson Angela Saballos -- recorded]

[Text] The Press and Information Directorate of the Foreign Ministry reports that Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto is heading the Nicaraguan delegation leaving for Guatemala today to attend the foreign ministers' meeting to prepare for the presidents' meeting that will soon be held in Guatemala. The Nicaraguan delegation also includes Jose Leon Talavera, Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister; Orlando Solorzano, deputy foreign trade minister; and Rogelio Ramirez, representative of the National Assembly.

The meeting will be held on 10 and 11 April.

[Dated] Managua, 9 April 1986

ORTEGA THANKS PERU'S GARCIA FOR SUPPORT

PA110035 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Today President Daniel Oretega sent a message to his Peruvian counterpart, President Alan Garcia, stating his gratitude for the support given to the Nicaraguan Government and people. The Peruvian Government has reasserted on several occasions that it would break diplomatic relations with the United States if it carries out a military invasion against Nicargua. The message was carried by Cultural Minister Father Ernesto Cardenal, who is in Lima invited to the Latin American Cultural Integration Week, where he will attend several events with other famous writers.

CUBA GUARANTEES SUPPLIES FOR SUGAR INDUSTRY

PA101815 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] The Cuban Government has guaranteed 73 percent of the parts, accessories, equipment, and other elements needed by the sugar industry, (Tito Chavarria), executive director of agro-industrial supplies, has told Radio Sandino.

All of these agro-industrial parts, equipment, and implements are for the 1986-1987 sugar harvest. They include sheet steel, pipes, angle irons, electrical and heat-resisting material, rollers, and others to give preventive care to the machinery. The guarantee of 73 percent of the agro-industrial supplies means the investment of approximately $3.5 million that were donated by the brother Cuban people in addition to $4.2 million in a line of credit that was negotiated with the Cuban Government.

(Chavarria) added that in order to further guarantee the agroindustrial supplies, there is a [word indistinct] line of credit from the French Government through which parts, equipment, and chemical products for the sugar industry and industrial slaughterhouses will be brought to the country.

TRADE TALKS HELD WITH HONDURAN ECONOMY MINISTER

PA101730 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] New trade mechanisms were opened yesterday after the talks between Honduran Economy Secretary Reginaldo Panting and Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca. The mechanisms include a system of barter and an unexplored phase of commerce where Honduran vessels will fish in Nicaraguan waters with the permission of the revolutionary government, Panting announced at a press conference.

The high-ranking official, who is leaving for his country today, said that the necessary steps will be taken so that these forms of bilateral trade will work to prevent greater problems in the future and to improve relations between the two nations. Secretary Panting said that among the mechanisms that will be promoted is for the central banks of Honduras and Nicaragua to complement the functions of each importer and exporter with their respective permits as well as using the bilateral clearinghouse between the two governments. He said that in addition to having trade objectives, his mission to Nicaragua is one of Honduran goodwill toward Nicaragua because in his inauguration speech, Jose Azcona Hoyo clearly said that he wants to maintain the best relations with the countries of the world, especially with Central America. The Honduran economic representative gave special thanks for the cordial way that he was treated by the revolutionary government since his arrival in Nicaragua.

On his part, Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca said that yesterday's meeting with the Honduran economic secretary was very positive and fruitful for both countries. Martinez Cuenca expressed the Nicaraguan Government and people's firm decision to increase relations with that sister country. He added that the revolutionary government is willing to meet with a Honduran private sector delegation to promote bilateral economic relations. He said that Nicaraguan opens all channels of communications with Honduras to continue building the peace that both peoples need and deserve.

RAMIREZ, BORGE TO MEET URUGUAYAN LEGISLATORS

PA100402 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] The Uruguayan parliamentary delegation that has been visiting Nicaragua for the past 3 days will meet this evening with Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado. Senators Alberto Sumaran, of the National Party and vice president of the Latin American Parliament; Jose German Araujo, of the Broad Front; and Deputies Juan Justo Amaru and Julio E. Daverede of the Colorado Party will also be meeting with Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON REAGAN PRESS CONFERENCE

FL101254 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Speaking over U.S. television, U.S. President Ronald Reagan has repeated his usual threats against the Nicaraguan Government, which he insisted must negotiate with the counterrevolutionary groups that are trying to overthrow it. As always, he repeated his lies about Cuba and the USSR, saying that the two countries are determined to convert Central America into a communist stronghold, but as usual he presented no proof of the matter. Reagan's appearance on television is part of the campaign he is conducting to get the chamber of representatives to approve his plan to provide the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries with another $100 million in military aid. On this occasion, Reagan alleged that the funds requested are necessary to show that the Sandinists cannot crush their opposition but must negotiate with the groups of mercenaries organized by the CIA. In the same televised press conference, the chief of the White House said his government has no proof that Libya is behind dynamite attacks in Europe, but, he said, the United States may take reprisal action against that north African country. He reported that all the agencies of the U.S. Armed Forces are on red alert while the possibility that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is linked to terrorist acts is being studied.

A few hours earlier the Pentagon had announced in Washington that the U.S. Navy is prepared if Reagan decides to take military action against Libya. Reagan has reiterated his request that U.S. allies in Europe support his plans against Libya. In Tripoli, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that his country is prepared to respond militarily to the United States, reaffirming that if Libya is attacked it will respond with the use of force against U.S. objectives in all the continents.

GRANMA ON GREEN BERET TRAINING OF CONTRAS

PA100239 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] The Cuban daily GRANMA warned on Tuesday that the training of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary gangs by the U.S. Special Forces, the Green Berets, implies a new phase in the participation of the White House in acts of aggression against the Nicaraguan people. GRANMA adds in its commentary that the direct training of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries by the Green Berets also implies the transfer to Central America of the brutal and bloody methods used by those troops in other parts of the world, particularly in Indochina. The official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba states, finally, that the Green Berets are symbols of the close ties that exist between the Pentagon and the CIA for staging diversionary and subversive operations against sovereign nations.

ESPIN MARKS CHILD-CARE CENTERS ANNIVERSARY

FL110146 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Twenty-five years ago child-care centers were founded to contribute to solve the problems of women who were incorporated as workers of the new society. The event was marked in all child-care centers of the country. [Begin recording] [Politburo member Vilma Espin] We have many memories of those first years. Hundreds of thousands Federation of Cuban Women members worked with dedication and made possible the fact that today we can proudly talk about the history of the child-care centers. [end recording]

CASTRO SPEAKS AT PIONEERS' GROUP CLOSING CEREMONY

FL082332 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2047 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the closing ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Organization of Jose Marti PIoneers, held at the Lazaro Pena Theater of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions -- live]

[Text] Distinguished guests, dear Pioneers: When I say Pioneer, I think of female and male Pioneers [laughter].

We are gathered here to commemorate a very important date, the birth of this organization just over 25 years ago, to be exact, 25 years and 4 days. It is very moving to think that this enormous mass of delegates, these outstanding Pioneers, were not yet born when this organization was founded. When the organization was 10 years old, and without any exception, I think that 99 percent of the Pioneers present here were not yet born.

For those who founded the organization and who have worked long years with you, such as that worker or teacher here representing many, approximately 200, we are able to present them with the medal distinguishing those who had served for 25 years. For those who have worked many years, even though they have not completed their 25th, for those who have recently begun working in the Pioneer organization and who will work their entire lives with the Pioneers, it must be a great satisfaction to see here this afternoon the fruit of their unselfish labor.

It seems to us that it was an excellent idea to organize an event from top to bottom based on the 25th anniversary of the pioneers. In our opinion, it has been a very well-organized event, well developed. It has culminated magnificently well.

If 25 years ago the idea of the Pioneer organization began, today the idea of Pioneer assemblies was born. [applause] I know you want more. You want Pioneer congresses, and why not? [applause] The youth and the party should analyze this idea of yours. It is not egotistical. Those who believe that only adults, party and young militants, workers, women, members of the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], peasants, students of the FEU [Federation of University of Students] or FEEM [Federation of Intermediate Level Students] can hold congresses, I invite them to analyze the content of the discussions and results of this assembly to judge if the Pioneer's aspiration to have their own congresses is fair or not. [applause] I am sure this idea will be welcomed and supported in the heart of our party.

Our country has followed you with great anticipation and interest for many reasons, one being that you represent the sons of the people. This assembly has been followed by the press and television. It has received much information, possibly because of your statement saying that more information is needed on Pioneer activities. Currently, radio, television, and the press have spoken extensively about the assembly.

I have had the opportunity or privilege of receiving a list of all the points discussed at the five commissions, or that is six commissions if we include the subcommission. You actually worked in six groups, even though the results were divided because culture, sports, and recreation appear as one resolution on the report. Hundreds of topics were discussed during the base assembly meetings and the National Assembly meeting. It can be said that the assembly was formed when the topics were discussed. All the fundamental questions mentioned range from those discussed by 7,000 Pioneers, or let us say 7,000 groups of Pioneers, that is 50 percent of the groups, up to those questions that were mentioned by 40, 50, or 60 groups. All are of great interest.

I think one of the questions was formulated by a smaller number of groups because the groups are smaller. For example, the students of the sports or arts schools made a statement on production. The number was smaller because the number of art and sports schools is smaller.

A careful examination of all those proposals and matters discussed during the assembly meeting will be made because I believe they are very useful for the party, for youth, for the state, and the education and culture workers unions. They need to be analyzed and thoroughly thought out because they are of great interest and are very useful. I believe those proposals could be divided into two groups -- and this is important -- proposals that refer to subjective problems and objective or materialistic type of problems. We need to make the difference, and we have to study them.

The subjective kinds of problems were discussed with a strong spirit of criticism and self-criticism regarding the students and Pioneers themselves. They were matters regarding teachers, guides, art or sports teachers, to various kinds of activities -- educational, cultural, recreational, sports -- that Pioneers practice. First of all, the Pioneers were sincere, very sincere when they criticized, when they made a self-criticism judgment about the lack of desire to study, the lack of adequate use of time to study individually and collectively. That was discussed in thousands of detachments, and it was candidly discussed. I believe about 7,000 Pioneers mentioned these study-related problems, and this is very important. It is vital. I believe if the FEEM got together, they would propose the same things, and if higher-level students met, they could propose the same thing. If our adult population got together to study the matter, they could also propose the same thing. If our professional and scientific technicians met, they could also propose the same thing. It is just that we do not have enough awareness about the need to study and the need to study for the rest of our lives. That studying, learning, is not a sacrifice. It should be a pleasure.

He who really understands it will find pleasure in study. If we see studying as work, as a sacrifice, as an enemy, we will never have the right concept of what studying is about. It can also be considered the most useful of the pleasures and what we learn stays with us all our lives and makes us more rational, more human, better men and women, more useful, and makes us feel more satisfied with ourselves. The young Cuban man and woman, the Cuban child has all the possibilities ahead. Before [the revolution] adults and youth, adolescents and children suffered a lot because they did not have the chance to study. We must be aware that about 50 percent of primary school-age children did not go to school. They did not have schools or teachers. A very small number of primary school children reached the second school.

A lesser number of children reached midlevel education or technological schools. I believe there were four or six technological schools and very few attended universities. Most of them studied careers that many times did not have practical use for the country. Most of the ones who graduated could not find jobs. A great percentage of the population was illiterate or semi-illiterate. The person who did not know how to read or write suffered the same as the semi-illiterate person or the one who did not reach sixth grade and the one who graduated from the university -- for many years there was only one university and later there were two or three, they were considered outstanding men or outstanding women [promujeres].

I do not know if that word is in the dictionary. They were extraordinary figures, they were called doctors. Many times when anyone who knew a little was being flattered he was called doctor even when he did not even have a high school degree but at least was somewhat educated. That is how things were in our country. Our adult population suffered a lot because of their ignorance, our young ones because of the lack of opportunities to study, our adolescents and children because of the lack of schools and teachers.

Those who have schools did not have the kind of schools we have. Sometimes they did not have furniture, books, notebooks, and pencils. Because many times the budget allocated for supplies was simply stolen. There was no school breakfast, or school lunch, or children with scholarships. I believe at present, we have around 600,000 children with scholarships. There are hundreds of thousands of semi-boarding students. I think it is a little over that, around 1.1 million among all the different kinds of students.

There were some private boarding schools, and there were some charity houses -- I do not know if I should call them boarding schools -- where the orphans and abandoned children went, and later there were a few other schools, built for political reasons, where there were some children with scholarships. Through the years the revolution has worked a lot so that not only our children study and all the children have teachers and schools, not only so that all primary school children reach secondary school, not only so that all secondary school children can study pre-university or technological schools or pursue a teaching or nursing career, but so that a great number of youths can continue higher studies. Not only so youth, adolescents, and children may study, but so adults may also study. You are aware of the efforts made to enable people to graduate from sixth and ninth grade through the labor-peasent faculties.

There are all kinds of educational possibilities, not only through regular courses but through guided studies. You know that tens of thousands of your teachers are presently studying at the higher level. Another thing that you know about is that we have already created a teachers reserve. We have around 12,000 teachers in reserve. Cuba is no longer a country where half of its children do not have teachers, it is a country that has 12,000 teachers in reserve so that the rest of the teachers may study while they take their place. No other country can say that it has made greater efforts, provided more education, especially for its children and youth. It is not an elite-type of education, it is not an education for the privileged, it provides education possbilities for all the workers' children of our country, thus, for all our people's children. You should think about that and always ask youselves if you are responding adequately to that historic effort of the revolution which was also made possible thanks to the sweat, the blood, and suffering of entire Cuban generations.

You ask that more visits to historic sites be made. Well, each classroom is a historic place because in it is the result of the blood and effort of those heroes you talk about and you admire so. [applause] You need to ask that question in the classroom each day, especially the adolescents who understand this problem better. How to adequately use time individually and in groups? How to study at home? Unfortunately, not all homes have experience or this kind of habit. If there is no studying tradition at home because the parents did not have these opportunities, then, the Pioneers have to create these traditions. [applause]

You say that you carry the banner of the year 2000, and it is very true. You will carry the banner of the revolution in the year 2000, but if you do not study what you are supposed to, then you will not be worthy of carrying the banner of the year 2000. [applause] You should also be Pioneers in that. If the preceeding Pioneer generations did not have the opportunity to reach that level of awareness -- those who are now in midlevel schools, or higher level-schools -- you need to take that awareness to mid and higher levels. Because, I repeat, in today's world true progress cannot be achieved without studying. But there is something else. Today's society conspires a lot against studying. Last century's society did not have radio, television, and the number of activities today's society has. You have radio, novels, and television series.

I am not criticizing novels, there are excellent novels that are educational. Sometimes they are melodramatic, with no educational value, that only are useful to escape, it is almost like taking drugs. Some of the modern past times are like drugs, they desensitize as much as drugs do. Not everything that is published is good. It is impossible. It is impossible for everything that is shown in a move theater to be good, for everything that is carried on each radio station to be good, for what is shown in each hour of television to be good. So a great amount of it is not good. That happens in the world, no matter how much effort we make. We have been discussing those problems for a long time, trying to produce better movies. Do not think the world produces very good movies.

Do not think the world produces very good television series or radio programs. One of the terrible problems the peoples of Latin America have today is that almost all of the [words indistinct]. [applause] It's all canned. All the cartoons come from the empire: the pictures, the serials, except for a few that are the exception. There are countries of such limited resources they cannot even make serials because they do not even have TV studios in which to make a serial or movie studios in which to make a picture. And the pictures come in as directly as the news sent directly by the transnationals.

Latin Americans learn about what is happening in the world through the news provided by U.S. transnationals, distorted, manipulated, and incomplete news. For example, if a report studies 20 positive points and another 15 or 20 or 10 negative points, they report only the 10 or 15 negative points and do not mention 1 positive point. In this way they manipulate the information, the culture. They also do this with books. It is so easy. So modern society conspires against studies. The movies are on the corner, the television set is right next to you, the radio and record player, the videocassette are all there with a quantity of poison. All of these temptations are there, testing the will of the Pioneers, because even such good things as sports -- and we all like sports, and if we turn on a game we do not imagine we are doing a bad thing by watching a series game or a boxing match by the best amateur boxers in the world, and our boxers are the world's best. [sentence as heard] In no other place on earth can they organize a show like the one they just put on: Cordoba-Cardin. [applause]

One doesn't do anything bad by sitting down to watch the Cordoba-Cardin fight, not at all. But if the following day there is an exam in physics of chemistry or mathematics or biology or geography or history or whatever, and there is a Cordoba-Cardin fight and you like boxing, there is no doubt that it is a hard test for the willpower of the Pioneers, and the mid-level and university students. And if there is a decisive game, and almost all of them appear to be decisive to us, and there is a test the following day.... And if there is a superserial that is very exciting and good, and I am speaking of good things, not of junk [laughter] then there is a conspiracy against the student.

Today's world with all its media is conspiring against studies, dedication, apprenticeship, and concentration, and tends to lead one to close the books, and a society that does not read is an ignorant society. You couldn't call it illiterate but it really is illiterate too.

No one can say that our society does not read. The demand for books is very great, but I wonder whether the demand for scientific books is great. There is a demand, of course, because the number of professionals -- engineers, physicians, architects -- has multiplied. But there will be no progress, no development, education will not occupy the top position that it should if we do not study, if we do not read. I am speaking to the Pioneers and to everyone. Modern society has to confront these problems. There is little time for meditation. We run from one place to another, and how time speeds by!

If we had resources to publish many books of great interest, we would increase our young people's interest in reading and even the interest of our adults. The media compete. The results of these phenomena of the modern world is shown by studies made in certain Latin American countries. Terrible things! The boys and girls do not even know who the liberators of their countries were. If they are about the equivalent of Marti, it is as if they were being asked [words indistinct]. In many Latin American countries, boys and girls do not know the names of the forgers of national independence. But 70 or 80 percent know who Superman is, they know who the Yankee cartoon figures are. Just look how imperialism, the historic enemy, the historical exploiter, uses all these means to oppress us, to subject us, to exploit us. They not only use their armies, their battleships, their planes and ships, they also use all these media to disorient and confuse us, impeding the intellectual, cultural, and scientific development of our peoples. [applause]

These reflections show the enormous importance of these subjects, and I have wanted to point out these examples on which adolescents must mediate. And here we have our future intermediate and higher-level students. I was thinking a few minutes ago while you were reading the reports. Those of you who are in fifth grade, even if you studied for careers that require the most time, such as medicine, which requires 6 years, all the youth you represent in the 14 years from now to the year 2000 will have finished your university studies. You will be the recent graduates in the year 2000 or the technicians with a few years of experience, or you will be teachers, or medium-level technicians, nurses, officers of our FAR, or highly skilled workers, or university graduates. This is what you who are here represent. And for this reason it is so important that you accept the idea that you are the bearers of the banner of the year 2000.

I know that those I am addressing directly in this hall, in this theater, are some of the most outstanding students because I know that the grass-roots assemblies did not elect the least disciplined students, the worst students. I imagine the best have been elected that could be elected. But I must also point out your obligation -- the obligations of the delegations that are present here -- in relation to the work that must be done in the detachments. I believe this event is reaching the entire country.

You were self-critical and justifiably critical and were not unkind to your teachers. To the contrary, you expressed admiration, gratitude, and liking for your teachers, for the overwhelming majority of your teachers who work and sacrifice themselves at their work. [applause] But you also pointed out some deficiencies, teachers who did not do their duty, teachers who do not prepare their classes well, teachers who are not exemplary; but you must not forget what was said about anyone being able to teach: To teach one must be a living evangelist. [applause] Although I do not believe that just anyone can teach. To teach, one must be a master of his subject. But the idea is clear: To educate is much more difficult than to teach, and the example is a fundamental factor in education.

You mentioned those who did not dress well or were not personally neat. But you pointed out something even worse: Those who smoke in the classrooms. Without a doubt, it appears that the classroom is not an appropriate place to smoke. You mentioned teachers who get irritated with the students and become almost violent, persons who lose patience with students who have a problem. You also mention students who are removed from class and then cannot get promoted. How can the revolution [words indistinct] win the battle against those subjective phenomena and against any subjective phenomena in society? How can it win? With the people, with the masses?

We cannot win them without you, without your criticism. You get together, you study, you discuss, you present the problems to youth, to the trade unions; any teacher that knows you have a critical viewpoint will make a greater effort for the class. She will be more careful in each thing she does, if the Pioneer has a critical spirit.

It is not a question of disregarding the norms or breaking discipline, of being disrespectful toward the teachers, but rather of having a critical conscience. The teacher knows what you think of her performance, and if they are incorrigible it is necessary to work through the mechanisms of the Pioneers, of the guides, the youth, the trade unions, the party, and say that this and this is happening. Discipline in class must not suffer. What is necessary is to have a conscience. Without that conscience, battles cannot be won.

Recently, we read an excellent article in JUVENTUD REBELDE, I think it was on what was wrong with urban transport and the hours that travelers had been traveling in buses -- 39 hours -- without paying. If I remember correctly there were about 1,244 individuals who got on and did not pay. The conductor did nothing, the public did not react. It is bad that things like this happen and no one reacts, when the community is being affected and a vice is being created.

The journalist himself explained that he had called their attention more than once. Of course, some of them forgot and others even got mad. They wanted to beat up the journalist. There are people like that. But we are not afraid of such characters. If we are afraid of such bullies, then how are we going to say that we are going to defeat, to crush imperialism if it dares to invade our country. [applause]

Our people know how brave they are. That is the truth. But we must be brave at all times and under all circumstances. On cannot be brave merely because one is ready to die honorably. Imperialists also are those who encourage vices in our country. Imperialists are those who corrupt a people, because a corrupt and addicted people will be an easy prey for imperialism. [applause] I know that the people are right in criticizing many things that are wrong. They are right in criticizing them, but criticism is not enough. We must do something about it. The masses can do something about it. They should take action. They should fight against that, denounce what is going on.

It is very difficult for the people not to see these things. But we must fight against them. The party by itself, even though there are half a million communists, half a million members of the union of young communists, the party by itself cannot wage these battles and win. We must have a critical awareness against all wrongs. We must have a militant awareness, a combat awareness.

In all sectors, be it education, public health, transportation, services, factories, whatever, there must be a critical awareness. I believe that the article published by the journalist is excellent, courageous, educational. These are things that must be pointed out. These things must be brought to the attention of the public, which he did. The people must participate in that struggle. Such neglect is not correct. A people who fought against colonialism, a people who defeated tyranny, a people who courageously face up to imperialism cannot neglect to punish the scoundrels. Who can conceive such a situation? The day the revolution triumphed marked the end of the bullies. That belongs to another era, to the days of capitalism.

Please note that you raise this point in your criticism. This should be done in other sectors and everywhere.

That critical awareness is enormously important. But it should not remain in the consciousness, it should translate into action to fight everything that is wrong. There are battles that may appear to be difficult, but can be won. You have raised other types of problems related to evaluations, inconsiderateness [facilismo], students who only study at the end of term or who believe that at the end of term they will be given a refresher course. You noted problems dealing with the fact that the textbooks are not being fully used. These are realities, goals for which we must struggle.

The type of evaluation has been changed. This was discussed by Commission One. An explanation was given as to the reason why points were not being awarded. We have to demand that the evaluations be strict, and that the grades reflect the effort made by the student as the quality of our education improves. We cannot gauge the quality of education by the number of students promoted. It is very important that the quality of promotion be given special attention. [applause]

With reference to the subjective problem, you have examined some deficiencies of the Pioneer guides, some deficiencies in some explorers' centers, some deficiencies in the palaces of Pioneers, in sport and cultural activities. Of course, we have human resources. Perhaps we do not have many arts teachers even though at the beginning of the revolution we created a school just to train arts teachers. I do not know where they are graduating from today. I believe they come from the same teacher-training system.

The revolution has graduated more than 18,000 sport teachers, those are mid-level and higher level professors. Almost all provinces have sport professors. In this country there are as many physical education teachers now as there were regular teachers prior to the revolution. That is just physical education and sports teachers.

During this meeting you have examined radio and television programming, schedules, and other matters. You have requested more information about this. Summing up, you have examined hundreds of matters, many of which belong in the subjective area. I have differentiated between subjective and other problems because I feel this is the area where we have to wage the main battle. It is our responsibility to solve this problem, all the deficiencies in meetings, in emulation, at work, hundreds of matters you have discussed. These belong in the subjective area and we have to solve them in the struggles we wage. [applause] That is why it is very important that the results of this event reach everybody, that they reach the guides, teachers, professors, youths, the party at all levels, the agencies which could make a difference, which could help in finding solutions to these problems. All these problems belong in the subjective sphere.

You also referred to material difficulties. I think that in referring to material difficulties, one has to distinguish between those that cannot be resolved because of deficiencies, laziness, or carelessness, subjective factors that have not been resolved, from those that are more difficult to solve because they are of an objective nature, a material nature that is not within our current resources. For example, sometimes lineups were noted. There are schools that have their formations on the street, hundreds, possibly thousands of schools have to hold their formations on the street because it is a problem. Imagine, how can we immediately solve the problem in Old Havana or other areas of the country so that there is a patio for formations? It is more difficult. It depends on the location and the possibilities. Many of the statements on material problems refer to installations that are old or not maintained.

I conversed with Lage [not further identified] and Fernandez [not further identified] and analyzed hundreds of schools from different levels that are new. We came to the conclusion that more than 60 percent of the basic secondary schools are newly constructed by the revolution in accordance with a prototype school.

There are fewer new primary schools. I remember that we converted many barracks into schools or police stations and it has not been enough. We confronted other difficulties, too. Sometimes, during the early part of the revolution, classes were held in a thatched-hut or under a tree. The important thing was to have teachers. Education was achieved with schools that were more or less good. Some schools, primarily those that had been private school, had better installations. From adapting buldings or schools, classes were created. At the beginning, there were not even any classes. There was a teacher for the children. Then there was a period when there was an explosion of middle-level students. It was necessary to create a great number of middle-level schools. It was necessary to make roads in the country, in difficult areas for schools that are pre-university, basic secondary, vocational, teacher-training, Camilo Cienfuegos military vocational, physical education, and technological schools. They were made. In addition, thousands of urban basic secondary schools were created. It was an enormous effort.

Yesterday, I was telling the comrades of Commission One that we are still constructing the installations while the university faculties are already functioning in all the provinces. Agricultural and technological schools are under construction. We have not yet finished. Unfortunately, we will have ancient or old installations for many years. That is a reality and no one can stand here and tell you that this problem will be resolved in 5 or 10 years. We should try and solve this as soon as possible, by the year 2000.

In material, we should substitute the old installations for new ones because we are confronted with limitations. We not only need to construct schools, we need hospitals, clinics, cultural houses, and other things. Above all, we need to construct houses and develop agriculture, irrigation, and agricultural installations because while we need schools and teachers, we also need milk, meat, and food. We need to construct the trade network because our trade is still very artisan-like. Thousands of small shops remain from the past, small stores that were the style.

Demand for construction is enormous everywhere. Above all, we should not forget the economy-oriented constructions that are a priority now because they are essential for development and the future. It is necessary to comprehend of these realities, that construction tasks are competitive, and the needs are many. Among them is the need for homes, even though in my opinion I think that construction for social needs such as schools, hospitals, clinics, and otehrs should have priority over homes because they are more important. Everyone goes to these places. The installations and the collectives that the people use are more important. The people become very sensitive when there are not enough beds, or the installations do not have all the resources, such as in hospitals.

Another problem that is very sensitive is construction of homes. Our need for homes is great and they need to be attended. Even though I repeat myself, I think these needs have the same priority as schools or public health needs. A hospital should never lack even one brick to make a necessary repair and a school should never lack even one brick to make a repair.

When we speak of awarding banners in the year 2000, this implies an economic idea and an awareness of youth, adolescents, and possibly even children who want things.

Possibly each child may want an amusement park like the one in Jose Marti City. It is marvellous. There is one on the other side of the river that has those bridges, what are they called, funicular?

We have three or four parks in the country and we continue constructing them. There is a simpler one that the people's government constructed and is very colorful. It can be seen when one arrives at the City of Pioneers to the left after the river. For the present, they will have to be content with that because we cannot have an amusement park for all the Pioneers. That has to be understood. By the year 2000 the banner-award ceremony can be held. That has to be understood. Possibly when you are adults and when you have graduated and have responsibilities which many of us have now, you will say to yourselves, on that anniversary we had four parks. Now there are 14 or 20. But there are more. Without a doubt you will have more.

There are all kinds of material problems. Of course, the fact that the contradiction exists between the need to find many things and also the needs that become apparent in the discussions of the detachment do not mean that we have any right forget about the schools. We could appear to run the risk of appearing not to plan to build even one, but I think we must find a way to be always building a few. With one school perhaps we can solve the problem of 500 students, with another we can solve the problem of another 100. We must make a better redistribution of the resources not dedicated to the productive areas.

In this sense, your guidelines must correct any imbalance or any formula that is not optimum for the distribution of the resources for something that is not productive. It would not be a good idea to remove it from the productive sphere. It would almost be better to continue with the old school and resign ourselves, and study hard in the old school as many of our present professionals have had to study in old schools, and some in schools that were even a lot older, and invest in the economy, invest in factories. Because in the long run this will be the only way to have many more resources for the Pioneers in the future. If we did it all now, there would be nothing and no way to maintain it. Remember, if the possibilities of new installations are relative, thinking in a rational matter, thinking in a responsive manner, we must think of maintenance costs. This is where we may be making the principal effort. In the maintenance of both the new installations we have built and in the old installations we are using.

I have asked comrades in education where they have more problems in the installations. Principally in the big cities? In Havana they have a lot. I think Havana has a maintenance brigade of about 700 workers. It would be necessary to see what resources this brigade has; there is no doubt that it is necessary to make a big effort in maintenance because for the moment it is not possible to supply playing fields. It appears to me that the effort must be made to maintain the schools.

We must determine what means exist for maintenance and how they can be redistributed. There are problems with water, sometimes even with drinking water. I believe it is a good idea that all these problems be called to the attention of the corresponding state organs, especially of the people's government, which are those that administer the schools. They are the ones that must maintain the schools.

There are often limitations. it is true that there are not enought playing fields, there are insufficient recreational installations. Some times there are insufficient musical instruments, sometimes there is not enough sporting equipment.

Sometimes there are not even enough textbooks. It is a problem because there are millions and millions of us and really we should take care of textbooks. We could not publish enough new books each year to keep up.

At the university we are trying to get the students to buy their own books because they are more related to their professional formation. We are struggling to determine whether the books can be sold at those levels because they are even going to be used as reference books and for review purposes.

We have not yet achieved this in all the universities because if you give out all the books they all have to be published by the fall, and we cannot do this yet. There are lots of problems related to materials, notebooks, pencils, which factors make it possible to improve quality. I believe it would be necessary to send all the organizations these guidelines so each can attempt to make the improvements possible in their area.

There is also the problem of television sets. The country has produced the first color television sets but the best I can say of our color TV sets is that they are not perfect. [laughter] They have a few little problems. Of course we are working on acquiring Soviet television sets that are better than ours or components to build them here. In this 5-year plan we expect to receive a large quantity, and when we have lots of color television sets I think we can send them to social installations on a priority basis rather than sell them so many persons can use the installations and equipment. We have enough black and white sets; there is no crisis in black and white TV sets. We have to make distinctions and you have to be very clear so that when the student makes a request we can distinguish between what can and what cannot be resolved because there are insufficient economic and material resources to do so. Or we could have to take it away from public health, and I do not think anyone would agree. It would be necessary to take it from the development of the country and it takes a great effort in the social and economic camps just to defend ourselves.

You have seen how, although we cannot build schools, we have to dig ditches and fortifications and invest tens of thousands of tons of cement, steel, wood, in doing it all and I ask if we can stop doing it. We have also had to place restrictions on defense programs for fortifications and preparation of the terrain for defense. We cannot commit the error of not doing it. We cannot fail to do it because that could be very serious. People who do not take care of defense needs are idiots, then there is no help but to pay for it.

There are many things that the Pioneers need to understand and above all for you because you are Pioneer leaders. We need to know in each case if we are capable of achieving our aspirations or if laziness or other reasons make it necessary to wait awhile, even years. Efforts have to be concentrated.

I repeat, in the material area, in maintenance, some stated problems with lighting during certain hours and in certain school locations that make programs difficult.

In brief, there are many problems. These problems are new. They are no longer the old problems, except for the problem of development. During the first years of the revolution, a meeting like this could not be held. First of all there were no Pioneers with the experience you have. The first Pioneers were younger, through the sixth grade. Basic secondary students were included later, and this has strengthened the Pioneer organization. They have given more continuity to the Pioneers.

Before, the Pioneers would prepare the cultural groups and when they finally became familiar with the program, they advanced to another organization. Now they continue from sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grade and give much strength in many ways to the Pioneer organization. In addition, they bring more understanding of other problems because the Pioneers that are in secondary education have more information, more knowledge. They have more possibilities to meet and analyze problems in greater detail as they have done at these assemblies.

Many of the problems stated reflect the middle-level situation. You should think of the two kinds of problems. The Pioneers must think of the secondary level as well as the primary level problems and even the problems of the Moncada Pioneers because the Moncada Pioneers cannot meet here to make the same kind of analysis you have made.

A good orientation is very important for you. I think that we sill greatly benefit from this process of trying to raise your awareness of all these problems. We are trying to do what is possible based on the analysis and results of the program you have discussed in each point.

I repeat, there are many problems. The life of a revolutionary is a struggle against problems everyday, everywhere, above all in a revolution that is born from poverty and underdevelopment. One has to constantly confront subjective and objective problems in all areas.

We will win the battle against subjective problems with the masses. I will continue to repeat this idea.

We will win the battle against objective problems when we intelligently change our efforts. But we will have to struggle. If we were to meet with other levels, we would see other problems. Wherever there is a meeting or a congress, there are problems. The simple conclusion is to struggle against these problems.

There are some who say: Do not struggle. That has to have been the invention of a counterrevolutionary, an imperialist because the one who counsels us...[interrupted by applause]. Only a counterrevolutionary would counsel us not to struggle. Only imperialism would advise us not to struggle. Struggling is our road.

During the first years, there was nothing. There were no teachers. Volunteers were needed. Literacy campaigns needed to be organized. Middle level professors were needed. Universities needed to be constructed. Millions of things were needed.

These problems do not compare to the current problems. Now there are different problems, and in the year 2000 there will be other problems. No one should think that there will be no problems in the year 2000. There will be other problems, and the current ones will have been overcome. Above all, there is one principal, that of inconformity. We will never conform because, what would happen? The society that would settle for conformity would be like a lake that does not move. It does not become agitated. If it does not move and does not become agitated, it becomes a swamp.

We will always have problems, and each generation will have its own problems. Today's problems are very different. They are new, but they exist and need to be confronted just as the future generations will have to confront future problems. Those who have not been born will have their own struggle. As you yourselves say: We were born to triumph! [chanting, applause] This should be repeated by those who are born and who will be born. We were born to do this and not just to say it. [applause]

That slogan has to be extended, not just to the patented imperialism that can be seen clearly by its armor, aircraft carriers, bombers, and Army, but to the subtle forms of imperialism that confuses, that subtly alienates, the type that introduces all kinds of vices, its subtle weapons. One must struggle against those weapons, against the society of exploiters and the vices that were left for society, if we want to make a society of Communists. There is need to struggle against the weaknesses and vices that still exist. One must see the enemy in all those weaknesses, laziness, bad examples, because I can assure you that the reaction, the counterrevolution of imperialism is present. Even though...[interrupted by applause]

Even though those who carry that weakness are not aware of it. They say: No, no, I will fight. I will grab my gun and fight. But that is not the proper action.

He himself in many instances does not realize that he is the victim of weaknesses that are contrary to the revolution's and fatherland's interests. A Pioneer cannot do that, a Pioneer must be aware of all that is wrong. There must be an effort to do everything better in all senses in all fields. I am convinced of that, and we are struggling daily for that goal. The struggle should not be left to the party alone; it must be undertaken by the masses.

If we want to improve all possible, the struggle must be undertaken by the masses. The most important things I could refer to about my feelings with respect to this process has already been said. I could add that we have been moved by this event, that we are very happy and feel strong to observe your behavior and attitude. This has been a lesson for all of us, and will continue to be for all those who underestimated the youths. If anyone has ever underestimated the Pioneers, the talent, determination, discipline, capabilities, and virtues demonstrated by you has been a lesson for all. [applause]

The ability to think, examine, ponder, discuss, and present the problems has been a lesson. The ability for criticism and self-criticism that has characterized this event has deeply impressed all of us. That is why I say you have gained the right before our society of demanding the possibility of organizing congresses of Pioneers. [applause]

It is no secret that our most beloved revolutionary hopes, our hopes for the future are in your hands. They are in the hands of our Pioneers. [applause] It is no secret that our party and youth are proud of you, that our people are proud of you. [applause] The revolution's hopes are in your hands. After a few years elapse and you are members of the Federation of Midlevel School Students [FEEM], we would like to hear that the FEEM has been improved. When you reach a university level, we would like to hear that the Federation of University Students has been improved. When you become workers, technicians, professionals, and scientists, we would like to be able to say that the country is operating better. [applause]

Let this be the watchword for all generations, because to the degree that a generation's efforts are better appreciated... [changes thought] It is not what a generation has accomplished at a given historic moment, the fact is that a generation's accomplishments are gauged by what is accomplished by the generation following it. [applause]

Beloved Pioneers, our generation has confidence in you. Our hopes are in your hands. Our generation is sure that you will be worthy standard-bearers of the year 2000.

Fatherland or death, we shall win! [prolonged applause and chants of Fidel, followed by the Pioneer hymn]

CNM 'STRONGLY' DENIES TERRORIST LINKS WITH LIBYA

FL102118 Bridgetown CANA in English 2102 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 10, CANA -- The leftwing Caribbean National Movement (CNM) today strongly denied charges that it had terrorist links with Libya and announced plans for a major conference of Caribbean thinkers in June. The CNM leadership composed of Rosie Douglas of the opposition Dominica Labour Party (DLP), George Odlum of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) of St Lucia and Tim Hector of the Antigua/Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) met the media here today to explain the organisations ties with Libya and to set out the objectives of the June congress.

Hector said that the first so-called Caribbean Peoples' Congress (CPC) will bring together 500 delegates from the English, Spanish, French, and Dutch speaking Caribbean. Delegations of churchmen, politicians, business leaders, trade union leaders, economists and others involved in the arts and literature will focus on the economic conditions of the Caribbean islands, the relationship of the church in the society and decolonisation in the Caribbean.

A comprehensive programme for the attainment and development of a Caribbean nation will emerge, Hector said. He also announced that the Conference of Women in the Caribbean will precede the congress.

On the question of Libya, Hector said that delegations of regional political organisations have attended conferences in Tripoli with a view to advancing the struggle for black rights in South Africa. These conferences asserted the right of Third World forces and people to that struggle. We have a duty to do more than pay lip service to that struggle.

Odlum said that Caribbean people must now address the economic issues facing them adding that political leaders of the Caribbean will attend the congress and the prime minister of the host country which is still to be determined will be invited to develop a new society with no foreign military bases from either East or West and one committed to social reforms.

DOMINICA

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON LIBYAN LEADER

FL110037 Bridgetown CANA in English 2340 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 10, CANA -- Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has extended President Ronald Reagan's description of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as a mad dog to the Libyan leader's followers. Those who follow him, those who praise him, those who say he is not a terrorist but he's a good man, they also are mad dogs, Miss Charles said during a public meeting her Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) held last night. Miss Charles had earlier viewed the televised news conference during which President Reagan branded the Libyan leader the mad dog of the Middle East. She also described Qadhdhafi's supporters as power- and wealth-hungry. Miss Charles has often accused her political opponents of getting financial assistance from Libya.

Opposition leader Mike Douglas told CANA his Dominica Labour Party's (DLP) international relations were not secret and he admitted going to Libya recently to discuss a number of international circumstances and matters that affect the Caribbean and ... Dominica's development in today's world. He said: It seems to me we have to re-define what a terrorist is.

It is the people who support the American Government, the Israeli Government and the Government of South Africa through constructive engagement, the people who assist President Reagan and give him the backing to carry out those vicious and wanton acts of terrorism against defenceless people.

HAITI

NAMPHY RECEIVES TREATMENT FOR EXHAUSTION

FL102002 Bridgetown CANA in English 1943 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, April 10, CANA-REUTER -- Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, president of Haiti's three-member ruling council, was being treated for exhaustion today, but family members and officials said his condition was not serious. There has been no interruption of the governing process. He is in touch with other council members, a cabinet minister said. Namphy has been under constant pressure to try to address Haiti's staggering social, political, and economic problems since assuming leadership of the council following the toppling of Dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier last February 7. Family members said the 53-year-old military chief of staff was suffering from stress from following an almost non-stop work schedule. He underwent a battery of tests in a hospital yesterday and doctors ordered him confined to bed at his home on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. He does not live in the national palace. Namphy left the hospital after the examination and was resting at home, family members said.

JAMAICA

OPPOSITION DENIES RECEIVING LIBYAN FUNDS

FL101910 Bridgetown CANA in English 1845 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Kinsgton, Jamaica, April 10, CANA -- Jamaica's opposition Peoples National Party (PNP) has categorically rejected claims that it is getting assistance from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Party General Secretary Dr Paul Robertson said such suggestions by spokesmen of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) were false, hysterical, and diversionary.

A document alleging strong ties between the PNP and Tripoli was recently circulated by the newly-formed Caribbean Democrat Union (CDU) -- a JLP-inspired grouping of regional rightwing parties. JLP deputy leader Pearnel Charles called at the weekend for the opposition party to declare its relationship with Libya as well as with Cuba and Nicaragua. Charles claimed that officials of the democratic socialst PNP had made secret visits to the three countries, and implied that should the PNP return to power here it would be perilous for Jamaican democracy. Charles statement was made as the JLP prepared to defend its handling of Jamaica's economy in forthcoming local government elections.

The Peoples National Party categorically states that it is not receiving any financial or any type of assistance from Libya or its head of state, Col Qadhdhafi, Robertson's statement said. He said Jamaican's could now expect to be deluged with a series of false and hysterical propaganda statements by the JLP as it seeks to frighten the people with deliberate lies to avoid dealing with real issues of significance.

An unsourced document credited to the American's turned up in the region early this year claiming a link between Libya and several political organisations in the Caribbean and plans for terrorism and subversion. The United States charges that Qadhdhafi is the major figure behind international terrorism.

Robertson said that an official U.S. document obtained from the U.S. Embassy here had no mention directly or indirectly of the PNP and charged agents associated with the CDU of doctoring the official version.

The aim was to try to deceive the people of the Caribbean and use falsehood in a futile attempt and desperate effort to assist Seaga and the JLP to regain the support they have lost among the Jamaican electorate.

In declaring that the PNP did not support or condone terrorism, Robertson said Charles should first remove the mote from his party's own eyes and reveal the source of the millions of dollars in its campaign chest for the 1980 and 1983 elections. The moment the JLP is prepared to fully open its book for public scrutiny and to reveal all its sources of funding, the PNP will do likewise, Robertson said. Robertson accused Charles of lying about secret meetings in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Libya. He said the PNP received invitations from political parties of all persuasions throughout the world and made public statements about those at which it intended to make a major presentation.

Robertson said senior JLP government members have in recent times visited Cuba officially without public announcement.

Restating his party's belief in ideological pluralism, Robertson said: The PNP is not apologetic about its commitment to peace and non-intervention by any foreign country in sovereign states. The PNP has said that it would re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba, broken when the JLP came to power, but would review economic relations.

ST VINCENT-GRENADINES

MITCHELL SAYS MARCOS NOT REQUESTING ASYLUM

FL090135 Bridgetown CANA in English 2201 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, April 8, CANA -- St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell said today that there has been no formal request from the ousted Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos for political asylum in the Caribbean island.

The Trinidad and Tobago weekly, THE BOMB, quoted Mitchell last weekend as saying he would consider granting residence to Marcos if the price was right for the Vincentian economy and the people approved it.

The prime minister downplayed the story and said he had given no formal interview on the subject to the paper. In a statement on local radio the prime minister said: He cannot let a country appear to look silly first of all by saying yes to something for which we had no request or to say no and the people responding by saying that we never asked you.

First and foremost the official position is that there has been no formal request to which the government could respond, Mitchell said. He said there had been one or two enquiries from interested parties on the subject adding that sometime ago someone made a request of the minister of tourism and he had dismissed it out of hand.

Mitchell had come under fire from the opposition because of his reported remarks.

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SARNEY, LUSINCHI DISCUSS TRADE, REGIONAL UNITY

PY111700 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Apr 86 p 7

[Excerpts] The sale of 30 Tucano T-27 planes to Venezuela through a countertrade deal for oil is practically closed. Yesterday, Presidents Jose Sarney and Jaime Lusinchi held a meeting that lasted nearly 2 hours at the Brasilia Air Base. The two chiefs of state expressed interest in expanding bilateral trade, which went up to $1.4 billion in 1982 and then declined to $600 million in 1985. Venezuela, one of the main oil-producing countries in Latin America, has lost one-third of its earnings in the wake of an oil price plunge on the international market.

The need to intensify the fight against drug trafficking in the Amazon region also was discussed by the two presidents, although the topic was not part of the prepared agenda. Discounting the time taken by protocol ceremonies and lunch, Sarney and Lusinchi had only 25 minutes to talk -- 15 minutes before and 10 after lunch. The Boeing 737 of the Venezuelan Air Force landed at the Brasilia Air Base at 1240.

Proposing a toast after lunch, Lusinchi said that his plane had landed in Brasilia on a technical stopover and that the warm reception accorded him by President Sarney transformed it into a new protocol ceremony, that of a "state stopover."

Rubens Ricupero, special foreign affairs adviser to the Presidency, summed up the topics discussed by the two presidents for the press. He reported that Sarney had once more emphasized that the absolute priority in Brazilian foreign policy is to reinforce links with Latin American countries, adding that a favorable climate for continental integration is now evident. Lusinchi spoke about the consolidation of Sarney's leadership, mentioning the "irreversible option" for democracy that Brazil has chosen and consolidated. The two presidents also talked about the foreign debt problem in the region, agreeing that it is important that the solution be given a framework that is common to all countries, in addition to the specific aspects of each one.

Regarding the fight against drug trafficking, Lusinchi affirmed that, as the control measures are intensified along the Colombian and Bolivian borders, the drug traffickers are seeking other routes through the Amazon region and the Caribbean. The Venezuelan president continued his flight to Buenos Aires at 1430. After visiting Argentina, President Lusinchi will visit Uruguay.

BRIEFS

EXPLOSIVES SHIPMENT CONFIRMED -- A telex sent by the Colombian Government informed the Belem Federal Police about the importation of 15 tons of dynamite and electrical fuses which were seized last Friday, along with a shipment of ether and acetone, from a barge in the Amazon River. According to Brazilian Federal Police Chief Romeu Tuma, the shipment of explosives is legal and has nothing to do with the one containing alcohol, acetone, and ether. (Geosildo Sao Farias), the person responsible for the latter shipment, has already been indicted. (Sao Farias) resides in the city of Tabatinga, in the Amazon region and he has a criminal record of drug trafficking. [Text] [Rio de Janiero Radio O Globo Network in Portuguese 0300 GMT 12 Apr 86 PY]

NEW ARMY JOINT STAFF CHIEF -- In a ceremony presided over by Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, General Fernando Valenten Pamplona today assumed the post of chief of the Army Joint Staff. Valente Pamplona replaces General Joao de Sa Freire de Pinho, who was transferred to the reserves. The new Army Joint Staff chief is a native of the state of Ceara and began his military career in 1942 at the Cadets Preparatory School in Fortaleza, capital of that state. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Apr 86 PY]

U.S. DECISION ON COFFEE PACT CALLED 'GREAT NEWS'

PA100210 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Apr 86 p 4A

[Editorial: "Coffee: Good News"]

[Text] Without doubt, the decision of the intergovernmental committee of the White House to recommend that the United States remain in the coffee pact is great news. The truth is that the economic reasons for the United States to withdraw from the pact are not really very compelling. This is the view of the U.S. coffee industry, which has been a great defender of the pact, and has played a determining role in the committee. To the coffee industry, stability with slightly higher prices is better than the anarchy of the free market. The political reasons given by Mr Wallis, deputy secretary of state for economic affairs, such as the agreement indiscriminately favors U.S. friends and foes alike, do not have much validity either, and so far, fortunately, have not had much following. The fact that Nicaragus or Cuba belongs to the pact does not force the United States or any other country to buy coffee from them. On the other hand, good coffee prices are fundamental for the well-being of many U.S. friends, and one could also say that good prices are also needed to maintain social peace and democracy in many of the countries that depend on coffee.

This does not mean that producer countries should rest on their laurels. It is necessary to continue efforts at the diplomatic level to create a better attitude toward the coffee pact among the other members of the executive branch, and particularly in Congress. Likewise, it is of utmost importance that the defects in the accord be corrected before quotas are reinstated. Hopefully, the shock that producer countries felt when faced with the possible withdrawal of the United States from the coffee agreement will teach them a lesson, so that they will maintain more efficient and cordial relations with consumer countries in the future. The last-minute diplomatic offensive may have been successful on this occasion, but no one can guarantee that it will work again in the future. The important thing is not having to launch these emergency offensives in the future to put out fires. Instead, a sort of permanent lobbying effort should be maintained with those who are our partners in this agreement.

FARC GUERRILLAS INVITE POPE TO VISIT CAMP

PA120443 Paris AFP in Spanish 0225 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota, 11 Apr (AFP) -- The leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which maintains a truce with the government, today invited Pope John Paul II to visit its central camp in the town of Uribe, in the southeastern department of Meta. The FARC staff sent the invitation through Apostolic Nuncio Monsignor Angelo Acerbi. The pope will visit Colombia in July. He will stay 7 days and will visit 11 cities. FARC is the country's oldest guerrilla organization. It silenced its weapons 3 years ago, following the signing of a truce with the government of President Belisario Betancur.

FARC has created a political group called the Patriotic Union (UP), which participated in the most recent legislative elections and has proclaimed a presidential candidate for the August 1986-1990 period. Braulio Herrera, the FARC political spokesman who met with the Vatican's ambassador, has said that the invitation is absolutely sincere and from the heart. He noted: "It is not our intention to mount a publicity show with this invitation." Herrera explained that the invitation to the pope has been made because the leader of the Catholic Church has always defended the cause of peace and social justice.

PLRA RALLY BROKEN UP; 30 INJURED, 15 ARRESTED

PY132303 Paris AFP in Spanish 2000 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Asuncion, 13 Apr (AFP) -- According to eyewitnesses, at least 30 people were injured and 15 were arrested as a result of the violence used to repress members of the opposition Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), who intended to hold a public rally in San Jose, a village 84 Km east of Asuncion. The rally was aborted by combined police, Armed Forces and Colorado Party popular militia units, according to the sources. PLRA leader Miguel Abdon Saguier was brutally beaten, dragged around, arrested and held incommunicado at the government representative's office of Cordillera department. Other PLRA supporters, whose vehicles were blocked on their way to San Jose, at Km 48 of Highway No. 2, received similar treatment.

In view of the roadblock, approximately 500 opponents left the motorcade and started walking. A few meters further the march was violently repressed by security units, the eyewitnesses reported. Saguier was dragged into a police van while the policemen attacked the other opponents using truncheons, whips, and braided wires. The agents also punched and kicked the opponents, according to journalists who witnessed the incident.

The PLRA rally in San Jose was supposed to express support for the national dialogue sponsored by the Paraguayan Catholic Church, but the Interior Ministry banned the rally and warned that it would be repressed if it took place. Journalists, foreign diplomats and leaders of the Liberal and Radical Liberal Parties who have seats in Congress, accompanied the PLRA columns and witnessed the action of the police.

Approximately 500 militiamen known as the Santani macheteros [Colorado Party peasants, usually sugar cane cutters and others whose main tool of trade is the machete] later marched shouting slogans praising President Alfredo Stroessner.

SALDIVAR NOTES 'GOOD' RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PY120228 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 11 Apr 86 p 12

[Text] "Relations between the Governments of Paraguay and the United States are good," Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar told ULTIMA HORA after holding a meeting yesterday with U.S. Ambassador Clyde Donald Taylor. The long conversation was held at the Foreign Ministry. Saldivar explained to this newspaper that "bilateral relations with the United States and matters concerning the two countries and governments were discussed."

Asked how he viewed Paraguayan-U.S. relations, Saldivar emphasized: "They are good; there is full cooperation, and we are constantly working toward that." Asked if a specific issue was discussed during the meeting with the U.S. ambassador, Saldivar said: "There was no specific issue, all the issues we discussed were of a general nature."

Saldivar was also asked if Taylor's visit was related to a possible U.S. request for information from our government about the case of three U.S. citizens who were traveling through the Paraguayan Chaco area and allegedly got lost. One of them died, and the circumstances are still being investigated. He answered that "the meeting had nothing to do with that. The U.S. Embassy has not requested any information on that case." Ambassador Taylor did not make any statements regarding the meeting to reporters in the Foreign Ministry.

U.S. STORAGE FACILITY HIT IN LIMA BOMB ATTACK

PY121604 Paris AFP in Spanish 1521 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 12 Apr (AFP) -- Lima police have reported that commandos of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) set off nine bombs early this morning. The bombs exploded at a storage facility of the U.S. Embassy, a property belonging to the Venezuelan Embassy, the Summer Language Institute, and public and private offices, causing considerable damage. The attacks, which claimed no victims, started a few minutes after the curfew, from 0100 to 0500 (0600 to 1000 GMT), went into effect, and occurred simultaneously.

A bomb [words indistinct] the U.S. storage facility located at Alfonso Ugarte Avenue, 50 meters from the prefect's office, causing extensive damage to doors and windows. Another explosion blew to pieces the doors of a [word indistinct] of the Venezuelan Embassy and the office of [words indistinct] in San Isidro, the source said. Similar attacks took place against suburban [words indistinct], the municipal office of Magdalena (?district) and three private businesses which were damaged. As a result of the attacks police began an operation and captured about 100 suspects.

Miraflores, San Isidro Incidents

PY121420 Lima Latinoamericana Television in Spanish 0440 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Terrorists again caused alarm in the capital tonight. Several dynamite sticks exploded in various parts of the city. Residents of Brasil Avenue reported that bombs exploded in the neighborhood of the Police Hospital, and that the Citybank branch office in Miraflores was seriously damaged. Explosions were also heard near Camino Real in San Isidro, near Arequipa Avenue in Lince, and at Pardo Avenue in Miraflores. The police have mobilized emergency personnel, and military guards at strategic points have been reinforced.

GARCIA RETURNS TO LIMA FROM MONTEVIDEO

PY121658 Paris AFP in Spanish 1628 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 12 Apr (AFP) -- President Alan Garcia Perez today returned to Lima after a 48-hour official visit to Uruguay at the invitation of Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. The Air Force plane carrying Garcia landed at the 8th Military Group airport next to the Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima at 1115 local time (1515 GMT). First Vice President Luis Alberto Sanchez, Prime and Economy and Minister Luis Alva, high-ranking officials, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Lima welcomed President Alan Garcia at the airport.

GARCIA DISCUSSES PARTIAL PAYMENT TO IMF

PY140107 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2323 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 13 Apr (EFE) -- President Alan Garcia announced here today that tomorrow his country will pay the IMF only $30 million instead of the $140 million installment that this organization is demanding so that Peru will not be declared "ineligible" [for further loans]. The Peruvian Government will pay the $30 million on the very date the IMF has set as the deadline to pay this installment. Garcia said that paying $140 million at one time would put an unbearable strain on Peru's reserves, taking into account the amount of foreign currency the country has, and would put the future in jeopardy.

Garcia added that one has to take into account that the price of oil has declined along with that of other Peruvian export products. In view of this, Peru could not deprive itself of $140 million, "knowing very well the risks it is running."

Garcia explained that the $30 million that will be paid is in keeping with what the country can pay and with "the prudence required of us to pay no more than we have to." He reasserted that Peru is not saying that it will not pay, nor does it renege on its debts, but the government has decided that "we will pay only what we can."

The Peruvian president stressed that "we will not jeopardize our right to development and our life insurance, meaning the foreign currency we have, to pay the banks, in this serious crisis that we have inherited, a crisis that is bound to last." He added that Peru will deposit the $30 million, which is what it can pay, "what our conscience will allow us to pay in keeping with our nationalism, and we will see what happens next."

SWEDISH OFFICIAL ON NORDIC-ANDEAN COOPERATION

PY130202 Paris AFP in Spanish 0501 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (AFP) -- Bernt Carlsson, Swedish deputy minister for Nordic Affairs, stated today in Lima that the Nordic community demands that the industrialized countries open their markets to the developing nations. We are against protectionism, and the Nordic community favors free trade, Carlsson stated in a press conference at the end of 3 days of meetings with representatives of the Andean group to expand trade and cooperation between the two regions. Carlsson stated that Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, buy 1.4 percent of the Andean countries' (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) exports. Excluding fuel, the figure amounts to 3.3 percent.

He noted that although this proportion is small, this latest percentage is equal to the Andean Group's trade with its partners of the Latin American Integration Association [ALADI] and exceeds its trade with Eastern European countries, Central America, the Caribbean, Asia (excluding Japan), Africa, Middle East, and Oceania. The meetings between Andean and Nordic members have permitted assessment of the prospects of institutionalizing trade ties, which will be mutually beneficial for the two regions, Carlsson stated. He added that Venezuela and Colombia, with hydrocarbons and coffee, respectively, export the most to the Nordic community, with transactions higher than $200 million annually.

Peruvian exports amount to approximately $25 million annually, but they are the most diversified exports of the Andean Group to Nordic nations (111 items as compared to the 11 from Venezuela, 35 from Colombia, 4 from Ecuador, and 6 from Bolivia). Ecuadoran exports amount to $3 million annually, and those of Bolivia to $100,000. Carlsson stated that the Nordic community has chosen the Andean Group as the first with which to begin contacts with a Latin American integration system because of its successful reestablishment of democracy and human rights. There is great interest in Nordic countries, among their governments and peoples, in the development of Latin America, in its economic situation, and in political events, he stated.

Pedro Luis Echeverria, one of the main authorities of the Andean Pact, stated that regardless of the differences between the two regions, the delegations searched for areas of economic, commercial, industrial, energy, agricultural, forest exploitation, and environmental protection cooperation.

FURTHER ON VISIT BY PERU'S ALAN GARCIA

Garcia Addresses Congress

PY110215 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 2130 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Address by Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez to a joint session of Congress -- live]

[Text] Congressmen: In Peru we know very well that any efforts for transformation which are restricted to our borders will be precarious and temporary. We know that without a process for the unity of Latin America, our countries are not going to have a true historic revolution. This is why before this national assembly I would like to thank the Uruguayan people for their generous welcome. This welcome is one more step in the rapprochement of our people. We know that Uruguay and Peru are the two countries on the continent that have permanently maintained their integrationist policies. This is why we are renewing our faith in strengthening this common action.

Now that the foreign debt is mortgaging our destiny, commercial protectionism is restricting our possibilities, the imperialist presence is threatening Central America, and our democracies must be models of justice and well-being, now more than ever our unity is necessary. The burden of the crisis will make our unity possible. In just a few months oil prices fell from U.S. $25 to less than U.S. $10 a barrel. I know that this can be a temporary relief for the economy of some countries, but it can also mean the economic contraction of important countries like Mexico and Venezuela.

Moreover, according to analysts, the fall of oil prices will not produce the reactivation or the expansion of the industrialized economy thus the unjust price levels of our raw materials will be maintained, raw materials such as silver, copper, cereals, meats, wool [words indistinct]. In addition, the need to reactivate and redistribute our economies will continue to be blocked by the servicing of the foreign debt and by the continuous drain of our resources abroad, attracted by the high interest rates now prevailing abroad.

In sum, there will be no real prospect for development and growth in our countries if we continue to be dependent and subordinated to what may occur in the world economy. On the contrary, the current disorders in the economy are worsening our isolated position. As the result of the crisis we have created in the Latin American countries economic protectionism and distrust. We have therefore justified our individual and bilateral dealings with the great world economy, thus distorting the integrationist policy we advocate.

We must now ask in what direction Latin America is going, where our people are going, and what historic answer we can give in the current situation. It is true that a few years ago, as a result of the crisis, a new awareness appeared in Latin America. Throughout the entire continent we are making efforts to overcome an economic concept encouraged by the IMF which caused great harm to our people in the last few years. It was a colonial philosophy to adjust our economies to the world economy through open trade, excessive debt, and economic contraction. Now, the Latin American countries are making the same efforts to defend their production from international competition, reactivate their economies, defending the income of their citizens, and control the disarray of the interest rates and the parity of our currency in relation to the dollar.

Thus, we are witnessing a theoretical renewal of the instruments used in economic policy. However, this conceptual change must be coupled with joint action, which history demands from us. Raised in the isolation of each of our nations, and still imbued with the respectful fear of the great institutions that conceal world injustice, we have not yet taken the historic step toward our integration, which will strengthen the new democracy in our continent.

Messrs Representatives: The current crisis does not involve financial resources and monetary destabilization alone. It involves primarily a problem which has developed throughout our history and which stems essentially from the foreign debt, which in turn reflects injustice at the world level. We believe that integration must be achieved through facts and actions. Therefore, the great challenge today is to jointly take the great leap to continental unity, in order to avoid isolated, useless efforts. Our continent has had great thinkers and heroes of social justice. Our continent has undertaken great efforts to achieve economic independence and democracy. However, those efforts, through which some nations sought to move forward, were isolated. Had they been concerted and coordinated, they would have written an irreversible chapter and implied a definitive step forward for the entire continent.

We see in Uruguay an example of the struggle for democracy in the continent. Early in this century, a great statesman who could envision the doctrines and processes that were still to come, enriched democracy with a new orientation. Batlle y Ordonez, a Latin American forerunner, gave the state a new intervention and direction role in the business sector. He gave democracy a social meaning. To guard against authoritarianism, he created a joint political management and moved forward in the search for Latin American integration. Batlle y Ordonez strongly influenced the youths who would later receive the call from the university reform and the Mexican revolution. Those youths created an anti-imperialist movement which has given political inspiration to the Peruvian Government. The American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, the APRA, has always considered Batlle y Ordonez as the great promoter of social democracy and of the new state in Latin America.

Here we have to make some comments on the will and the political doctrines enforced within a single country and restricted by that country's economic dependence on the world economy. History teaches us that neither the greatness of leaders nor the soundness of their actions or doctrines, when limited to a single country, can bring irreversible progress.

Messrs Representatives: If we recall that the proposal by Batlle y Ordonez for a continental model should have been applied in each of our nations since the beginning of the century, we will realize that we have wasted a great deal of time. Let us recall the proposal that the APRA in the 1920's advocated social democracy, the nationalization of land and industry, and the anti-imperialist effort to achieve integration, and we will also realize that we have wasted a lot of time.

As we enter the last quarter of this century, there is one lesson that we should learn: The isolated paths followed by each nation are exhausted. Each country can no longer tackle its socioeconomic problems exclusively within its borders but within the entire continent, in order to give a common answer to the common problem of dependence.

Our history is the history of growing dependence on the world economy. We have forgotten the message of our independence, which advocated unity in our great fatherland, and we have grown as isolated nations. As such we are, we have been the easy prey of international capitalism. Therefore, despite some differences and temporary prosperity, we have all followed the same path.

Beginning in the last century and until the Great Depression in 1930, we were raw material exporters, in the belief that foreign markets would steadily grow. However, 1930 killed that illusion. After that, when international capitalism created multinational industries, we became buyers of factories and technology, adopting new consumption habits, importing expensive factory systems, and increasing centralism.

In the 1970's, when the price of oil went up, capitalism sought to sell more goods, raise interest rates on the foreign debt, and shorten the repayment deadlines to compensate for the higher cost. Almost without exception, our countries opened their borders to the foreign products, thus hurting their industries. In addition, they agreed to service their debts by contracting new loans at higher interests. This road led us to a crisis of dependency, and what is now at issue is the subordination to the imperialist system.

This critical situation has made us more conscious of our unity, because none of us will be able to come out alone without repeating the frustrating experience of the past. In the past we were deceived by the belief that the export of raw materials would be the instrument of our well-being and independence.

We were also deceived by the belief that the purchase of foreign technology to substitute imports would help us to affirm our autonomy. In the same way, it would be deceptive today to believe that by renegotiating our foreign debts separately, we could exact better repayment terms than our neighbors, and guarantee the solution to our problems. The truth is that we will only be able to pull out of the serious current crisis by a historic determination: unity to respond to the issue of the foreign debt that is behind all the difficulties of the present.

At the present juncture, Peru affirms its nationalism by limiting the influence of world trade, by reactivating its industries and consumption. It asserts its nationalism by facing up to the foreign debt problem. In addition, it is making efforts to democratize the state by expanding its action to sectors that have so far been deprived of its benefits, such as the peasant communities and the marginal urban population. Peru is also making efforts to establish an economic model that will counteract the monetarist theory and will give the state the ability to govern interest and exchange rates, and the overall orientation of the economy.

Despite all these efforts, however, we know that there will be no profound transformation in Peru, unless Latin America is united. Alone we might only be able to administer scarcity and poverty in a better way, but the lasting revolution that is to bring well-being, development, and technology will only be possible after we join other countries in making a momentous decision.

We look at the road Uruguay has taken to rebuild and consolidate its democracy with great hope, in the expectation that this will be the way to make up for the previous process of disindustrialization, to bring about the reduction of the foreign debt, and to deal with the low prices of raw materials. Because we in Peru are working for the same objectives, the Peruvians are expectantly observing the demonstration of civic maturity of the Uruguayan people who, under the leadership of their president, have struck a grand National Accord for the consolidation of democracy and the reconstruction of the economy. This is for us the essence of the Uruguayan example, because, in the depth of the economic and social crisis, each sector and group of the population may certainly have a grievance it wants to see addressed.

Each group wants to recover the level of income it has lost, and each citizen has the right to be impatient. But the political maturity of the Uruguayn people stands as a lesson that everything cannot be had at the same time and that the grand objectives, not the sectorial demands, must be the rallying points. What is important in these two experiences is that the roads our peoples have taken should lead us to the consolidation, thanks to the unity of Latin America, a new form of democracy, different from the formal democracy that countenances social injustice and from the political sovereignty that conceals economic subordination.

It is important that we should see that the process is not one on which we have embarked individually, but, unlike the past, one that is our common responsibility. It is our duty to consolidate democracy in the context of the greatest historical crisis in Latin America, which threatens to worsen the problems it entails. This explains the urgency we feel in Peru, the urgency that compels us, on one side, to strengthen the process of unification of the Americas and, on the other, to build a democracy with popular roots, not just to do justice and redistribute wealth, but to ensure the conscientious and responsible participation of the majorities.

Mr President, when we assumed power on 28 July 1985 we had an inflation rate of nearly 200 percent. Most of our industry was paralyzed. Our debt service was higher than the total value of our exports. In addition to this, seven out of ten Peruvians were either unemployed or underemployed.

We said then that our commitment was to all Peruvians with a priority to the unemployed and the hopeless. We told the professional, administrative, and labor union sectors that we would direct our efforts to prevent their income from continuing to drop as it had for the last 12 years. We told them then that it was possible to prevent their real salary from deteriorating. We even told them that it could be increased slowly and progressively to its level [as heard].

However, we also said that the few resources we collected would first be spent in the historical reactivation of millions of Peruvian have-nots because we believe that the state does not only belong to those who participate directly or indirectly but rather to the rest of the citizenry as well. Of course, we have many pressures and demands. Some think that they have the right to raise their prices to where their expectations and worries indicate. We believe that it is not a matter of increasing the profit per unit, but rather of producing more without exaggerating prices.

Other sectors, particularly professionals and managerial, demand that we return to the income levels of 1973. We say that it is impossible to attend to that request in only 8 months of administration. However, we also say that the very few resources we can obtain during this crisis must be used for the unattended social sectors: to bring running water to the slums around the cities, to provide jobs for the tens of thousands of unemployed, to give credit without interest rates to the poorer peasants, to vaccinate millions of children, and to directly aid the peasant communities.

I take the liberty to make this recount about Peru before this Congress in view of the example set by Uruguay by reaching a great national agreement. This means that the Uruguayans can coexist regardless of the impatience of each, demonstrating a historic realism, and without abandoning the doctrines and society models or each political group. In view of this example -- and seeking the same -- I would say that things do not happen in Peru as fast as or at the rate each individual or group wishes. However, no one can doubt that things are progressing and as days pass, our march will lead us to the same position of uniting before the crisis.

Nonetheless, our paths, our national paths continue to be separate just like the great historical proposals at the beginning of this century. In this manner the nationalist and redistributive effort of the Peruvian government together with the national agreement of the Uruguayan people will be affected and restricted by the same great problems that we will only be able to solve by uniting -- and uniting now -- our decisions.

Therefore, today we must understand that democracy is not just the privilege of each one, but depends on the whole of Latin America and its integration. Considering this subject, we must recall that our intentions and declarations of unity were hindered by the traditional and bureaucratic channels we chose for integration. Taking into consideration the historical experiences of other continents, we have tried first to establish free trade zones to then organize common markets. However, through this means we did not decisively attain our common objective. We believe that integration cannot be restricted to a progressive and traditional model. We believe that there are some crucial areas in Latin America in which we are not progressing and that demand our common decisions.

This integration of great decisions will open the way that will allow our economies to approach the great models of technical or industrial integration.

This is a time for coordinated decisions; a time to actively and immediately address our major problems. Today, a decisive, joint action by our peoples is required to achieve integration, which cannot be entrusted to technocrats. We must unite around the subject of trade by seeking to exchange our supplies, by concentrating our trade efforts on the region, by establishing countertrade systems, and by establishing financial mechanisms that would preclude the use of foreign currencies among us. We must unite to defend the prices of our raw materials and to establish mechanisms designed to enhance our balance of payments.

We must unite to limit expenditures on arms, which we continue to have and which reduces our funds earmarked for development. We must unite primarily to verify that behind the cold figures of the debt is a whole history of injustices and dependence endured by Latin America. Here, Mr President, despite our different circumstances and experiences, I must again discuss the foreign debt issue and again repeat our ideas. We will tirelessly continue to do so from every forum because we believe this is the main subject of our times, that is, the one having immediate effects on employment, food, health, salaries, interest rates, and social expenditures concerning our governments.

Without a structural, collective solution to the debt problem, each of our countries will have just a remote chance of qualitatively improving the standard of living of its people and its economy. Isn't it true that even if the prices of our raw materials went up, the dollars we could get would primarily be used to service the debt? Isn't it true that if they offer us a fresh $100 loan, $90 will be earmarked for paying a previous loan? Isn't it true that through this meager net loan, which accrues interest for the future, we are forced to support a world monetary system that only benefits rich countries? Isn't it true that the servicing of the debt directly affects exchange rates, interest rates, and real salaries?

Each of us may apply similar or different economic instruments and negotiate separately trusting in our good luck; but acting separately we will only make the same system more effective. By contrast, if we act together, because of the weight of unity itself we will be able to change the situation and thus open a new chapter in our history. Our debts have stemmed from the low prices paid for our products. We want to tell those who dream of a world economic expansion with higher prices for our products and subsequent development of our economies that there will be no worldwide expansion, just as expansion of the developed North.

The debt has also stemmed from the artificially inflated industrial models we have adopted and that have made us consumers of the main international industrial sector. Some people believe we ought to continue with the philosophy of rescheduling our debt to guarantee these technical models that are not suited to our reality. We believe our world economic standing will also depend on the regional and sectorial structures of our industries. These will have to be redefined and, above all, connected throughout the continent to overcome the vicious circle of isolation. We all know, however, that the foreign debt has been worsened by usurious interest rates, which are much higher than the inflation rate in developed countries. In this respect, we endorse the opinion of several Latin American statesmen demanding the use of an interest rate for our continent. We believe, however, that this Latin American interest rate should be sovereignly decided by Latin American countries, and should not be a gracious concession by the financial powers.

Moreover, the world can see the injustice in the obligation to use the currency that is issued by a single country for all international transactions, a country that can thus influence our decisions. Once the gold-dollar parity established in Bretton Woods in 1946 was broken, the dollar became a currency that could be freely issued by a single country that could thus impose its decisions on our economies. To refuse to face this reality and remain in the same situation will only keep us under the obligation to pay our foreign debt with new loans at higher interest rates that will compromise our future even more. This is true because new credits also imply the conditioning to a monetarist economic theory that Latin America is leaving behind.

For years this theory that is defended by the IMF has demanded that the Latin American economy be adjusted to the economy of the industrialized countries, thus turning us into an open market that destroyed our industry. Let us agree that our commitment should be to defend our production and development of our internal markets. For many years, the theory of the IMF has demanded that we govern our economic indicators in such a way that if prices went up, our currency should be devalued. Thus with a devalued currency, the interest rates had to go up and, subsequently, prices had to go up once more, in a vicious circle of poverty.

In addition, the liberal theory forced us to balance our supply and demand, contending that if there is no supply, demand cannot increase. On the contrary, we in Peru contend that it is imperative to restructure demand by redistributing it in social terms. We contend that the demands from the international banks or the demands from the privileged groups cannot be given priority to withdraw the country's foreign reserves or to consume luxury goods. We believe that it is necessary to redistribute the demand, beginning with the most needy. This is the objective of the Peruvian Government. As a consequence of the liberal theory and the negligence of past governments, the GDP in Peru is the same today as it was 20 years ago.

In view of this situation, our objective, which for the employed sectors is communistic, is to prevent the decline of the real salary as it happened in the last decade. Of course, our middle class, made up of administrative and professional personnel as well as the urban labor sectors, is asking for an accelerated recovery of the income lost over the past 20 years. Our answer is that with the meager resources of the state, we first want to incorporate the poorest sectors into the process of production and consumption. When the middle class asks us why we give priority to the most needy, we reply that the well-being of the middle class in the future will depend on the work and consumption of the most needy.

Lima, the capital city, where industry is concentrated, will not be able to produce if the market is not expanded. This is true because the public administration and the state, on which more than 1 million Peruvians depend, will have nothing to do unless the field to be administered is enlarged.

Of course, this proposition, which is an indispensable one in the face of an improductive economy, requires a high degree of conscientiousness to understand that the rectification of Peru's historic path cannot imply the immediate solution to all problems, but a long-term endeavor. However, Mr President, this long-term effort does not diminish intense interest with which we observe the culmination of a National Accord in Uruguay. In sum, in the face of the liberal theory that was imposed on us by the International Monetary Fund, we reassert a Latin American concept of development.

An era during which we were exporters of raw materials has come to an end, the illusion of establishing domestic industries that are autonomous has been dispelled, and with the reality of our foreign debt facing us, we must recognize that the foreign debt is the modern expression of imperialism. We should also recognize that this problem must have a political response and that it calls for a historic decision. This is why we in Peru have decided to set a ceiling on the servicing of the foreign debt, depending on the volume of our exports, which means that we will pay our debts in accordance with what we are paid for our work. [applause]

By that policy we want to assert the will of our continent. We must not, we cannot, continue to be satellite countries run by a single currency and interest. The Peruvian decision is not a passionate rage but a responsible decision before history.

We were warned that by that decision Peru would be left alone but we did not believe it. The truth is that the history of Latin America has been, except for a few occasions, the history of solitude. We now believe that the current circumstances will push us to unite. A warning has also been made that any country that violates international rules will not get much foreign aid. It is true that we need investments and technology but we do not believe in the myth of commercial credit as a necessary condition for development. Peruvian development does not depend on the dubious accumulation of credits but on the better distribution of its wealth and the work and faith of its citizens. [applause]

In the face of this decision, those who divide the world into two centers of power and view ideological positions in a simplistic manner, have labeled us as intolerants and extremists. We are not and will never be extremists. We believe in democracy as an expression of freedom. We believe in Latin America and we know that the great challenge now is to justice without sacrificing freedom. [applause]

We would like to reiterate here that to come out of exploitation it is not necessary to fall into the domination of the state or of a new class. We reiterate that it is not necessary to abandon domination to fall into another influence. A social revolution does not have to postpone the freedom and independence of a nation.

Over 100 years of social struggle have taught us that socialism cannot be achieved without freedom and that the vote and the participation of the people cannot be replaced by a political group, by a totalitarian state, or by a messianic personality. [applause]

We must prove that we can be anti-imperialists and affirm economic independence within democracy. To make a decision on the debt issue we must call things by their true names. However, Mr President, that does not depend on Peru, or Uruguay or on all of us as an isolated group. It will depend on the common action and concerted decision of all countries of the continent. Latin America is not a phrase. Latin America is a dormant giant. Everyone of us has to wake up and take action to gain not only independence, but also justice.

We know that national economic independence cannot be achieved without justice and development for our people. We recall here the message of Artigas whose words reached General Garzon [Uruguayan general who fought for independence] in Ayacucho. Artigas said that independence is not only the birth of nationality but that it must also have a social dimension. Artigas understood that the political and social structure are in the possession of land. He understood the basic right of the poor to own land and livestock. This is why he was called an anarchist and the enemy of order and property. [applause]

Mr president, representatives, I wanted to tell you about the efforts of the democratic, nationalistic and popular Peru of today. I wanted to tell you about the hard blow our expectations received from reality, and about our efforts to make something big for the freedom and welfare of our people. However, I mainly wanted to say that this task undertaken by us Peruvians is not exclusively ours. When we speak about Peruvian nationalism we are also speaking about continental nationalism, because we know that there will be no real revolution in Peru if there is not a deep democratic revolution in all of Latin America which ... [interrupted by applause]

I wanted to recall the historical and masterful experience of Batlle y Ordonez, whose ethical and social concept of state, which he held as a banner before the illusioned youth of his times, can be compared with the historical proposal of the APRA in 1920 as an anti-imperialist movement for the rescue of our continental identify.

Apart from the great personalities of these undying doctrines, we find ourselves with the painful reality of an isolated and divided continent which each of its nations -- which are part of a same unity -- confronting individually the great imperialistic system. By this I meant to say that now as then, when we recall the efforts made to overcome situations we thought were irreversible, we find this formidable effort by the Uruguayan people to reconstruct and consolidate their democracy. This is a democracy that in the past was an example for all of us. At one point the example was lost until the will of the Uruguayan people recovered what republican and democratic Uruguay must be.

I mean to say that this dramatic effort, after so much pain and waiting, also corresponds to the effort of the Peruvian people who have also waited for centuries for the reinstatement of its history [as heard]. These two efforts have common threats, restrictions, and opponents, and must stand up together: Uruguay in the Atlantic, Peru in the Pacific, two peoples that have always stood under the banner of integration. It is our time to actively carry the banner; here and now, it is the time to commit ourselves to a common action to show the rest of the American peoples that when we unite we gain a stronger quality, and that with our united strength, we will be able to reach peace, justice, and the economic independence for our whole continent. [applause]

Messrs Congressmen, I arrived in this generous Uruguay that once provided Haya de la Torre, the great champion of social democracy in Peru, with passport and shelter, not only as the president of Peru, but also as a member of the APRA and a disciple of Haya de la Torre, to express his posthumous gratitude to the noble Uruguayan people who protected him against dictatorships and persecutions. And I do so in the understanding that here we will seal our commitments and aspirations for the future. We owe ourselves to the future and it is in our hands to bring it closer, to transform its promise into reality. The possibility of carrying out a revolution, which will not be a revolt but a spiritual renewal, is within our reach. This will be a revolution with the significance of a democratic affirmation of freedom for all the people of the continent if only we keep working for our integration.

I came here to reiterate that we identify ourselves with Uruguay and that we want to reach an accord with this nation. Let the Uruguayan people know that Peru also considers the foreign debt a political problem and that on their behalf, but perhaps along another path, Peru will boldly confront whatever danger to prove that Latin Americans have the right to freedom. [applause]

Despite the intransigence of the factors involved in the Contadora Group action, Peru and Uruguay will continue to support it, in the quest for peace and for the strengthening of democracy in Central America. We [applause] ... actively and faithfully support the Contadora Group process. We, Uruguay and Peru, do not do it as either agents or supporters of a single cause. We do it on behalf of the entire Latin American Continent, in an effort to find peace and democracy, strengthen and safeguard the dignity of our continent, prevent all kinds of intervention whatever the origin, and build out own future with a single voice and will. Along with Uruguay, which throughout its history has been a peaceful country, we will support the limitation of military expenditures in our nations. I am sure that Peru and Uruguay will join efforts to build a single nation in our continent, in which we will all have political participation.

On defining Latin America with respect to other civilizations, Jose Enrique Rodo [Uruguayan writer] wrote a well-known expression: Ariel represents the dominance of reason and feelings over the baser instincts of sensuality; it represents generous enthusiasm and lofty, unselfish motivation. Today, the entire continent must wave the banner of those moral values, realizing the difference between the spirit of Ariel and the sensuality and materialism of Caliban.

There are some who regard the world as a two-sided confrontation of arms and areas of influence. Uruguayans and Peruvians only believe in the spirit of mankind without any boundaries.

There are some who live on their greed to have more. We believe, we must believe in solidarity and in the spirit. While there are those who lust for power, we believe that politics must be unselfish. While there are those who have raised the banner of authoritarianism, we believe in democracy and tolerance. While there are those who have been overwhelmed by indifference and impatience, we believe in our commitment to life and to the future. To the youth we continue to call upon with Rodo to undertake a heroic search for truth. That is why we long for a united America.

Messrs Representatives and fellow countrymen: Those who have promoted division among our nations shall reap frustration. Those who dared not act shall live in disappointment. We, I can feel it, Uruguay and Peru, which have always advocated unity, let us now act, so those who are now children may learn in the future that at a decisive time we dared begin a new chapter, thus winning a place in history. Thank you, very much.

Trade Conference Proposed

PY121523 Paris AFP in Spanish 2259 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Apr (AFP) -- It has been officially reported here that Peruvian President Alan Garcia and Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti today agreed to promote a top-level Latin American conference to review international basic commodities trade. In addition, Garcia and Sanguinetti will work together to inform other Latin American presidents about the initiative. No date has been set for the conference.

A statement issued by the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry noted that the two heads of state expressed their deep concern over the continuous erosion of the prices for basic commodities, which dropped by 23.3 percent from 1980 to 1985 or by 32.2 percent if petroleum and petroleum by-products are excluded. According to the communique, the export of agricultural commodities faces strong restrictions in the markets of the industrialized countries because those countries replaced their imports by subsidy policies, thus distorting the normal conditions of competition. At the same time, the heads of state agreed that mineral products and metals are also being subjected to diverse protectionist measures and that the sudden drop in the oil prices increases the complexity of the world basic commodities trade.

Peace Message Sent

PY120253 Paris AFP in Spanish 2351 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Uruguay and Peru today called on the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua to give a favorable and quick answer to the call for peace recently made in Panama by the Contadora Group and the Support Group.

In a letter sent to the presidents of those nations, Presidents Alan Garcia and Julio Sanguinetti emphasized their profound conviction of the urgent need for the Central American countries to reach the necessary agreement as soon as possible. The letter says that this agreement should consolidate peace, security, democracy, and the development of the region through a Latin American solution based on the proposals of the Caraballeda message. The presidents' message says that such a solution would demonstrate the ability Latin Americans have to resolve their own problems free of foreign interference. They said: We will not give up our belief that there is no alternative to reaching an authentic and lasting peace than through diplomatic negotiation.

After renewing their commitment to Contadora and its Support Group, Garcia and Sanguinetti committed their strongest and most loyal efforts to the process of negotiating a formula for peace in the region that will satisfy the interests of all the countries concerned.

Holds Press Conference

PY122245 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0245 GMT 12 Apr 86

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Apr (EFE) -- Peruvian President Alan Garcia today passionately defended Latin American integration and condemned in equally strong terms both the aid to the Nicaraguan contras, the IMF, drug trafficking, and terrorism.

During a 90-minute press conference at the hotel where he is staying, Garcia answered dozens of questions by newsmen and advocated a Latin American currency and a Latin American passport, because "the important thing is to start" regional integration. He explained that an agreement had been reached with Uruguay to exchange products, excluding payment in dollars, "an international currency that is really for one country."

The Peruvian president, who had a tight schedule today on his 2d day in Uruguay, said that his country "does not wish to export any model for the payment of the foreign debt," but that "we do expect fraternal solidarity in any case of abuse."

Asked by EFE if he expected other countries to follow the example of limiting the payment of the foreign debt to a percentage of export revenues, particularly after several of them have negotiated unilaterally with the creditors, Garcia replied: "I am very optimistic, because conditions are pushing us toward the unity of all Latin Americans." He added that he did not believe that Peru would remain alone in its position, explaining that the limitation of payments to 10 percent of export revenues meant that the debt would be paid in 20 years with an interest of 4 percent, which is higher than the yearly inflation rate in the United States. He also said that his government opposes the IMF because "there should not be any supervisor of the economy." He explained: "We do not accept prescriptions. We pay the percentage we can, by the same right the other side exercises when it sets interest rates unilaterally."

Alan Garcia Perez also harshly condemned "absolutely and publicly the aid to the Nicaraguan contras." In a clear reply to U.S. President Ronald Reagan he said: "There is no reason why a single person should feel that he has the right to guide Latin American history." He said that "the important thing in Nicaragua is that the Somoza dictatorship belongs to the past." He denied being a communist, stating that "we are democrats, but Latin American democrats." He then added that "we are aware of the lack of freedom of the press in Nicaragua, and that there is no pluralism, but that is no argument for interfering with the affairs of that country, much less for the most powerful country in the world to do so." He said, "something should be done for pluralism and democracy."

Garcia compared the aid to the contras with the possible aid from some other country to guerrilla groups such as the Shining Path in Peru, or to the Tupamaros in Uruguay before they gave up armed struggle to become a democratic left. He stressed that all help to guerrilla groups is "naturally aid to insurrection," which is an attack against democracies. He also confirmed that Peru will immediately sever its relations with the United States if it invades Nicaragua, because "that is the least we can do." Alan Garcia made it clear that "we are not against the United States, we are only against the model it wants for Latin America."

Regarding the Shining Path, he said that it has opened two fronts of attack, one against the police "to defend democracy" and the other in the social sector. In his long dialogue with newsmen, Garcia also asserted that his country "will not give up its struggle against drug trafficking," but he also asked the governments of drug-consuming countries to make their contribution as well and not through tardy measures, to rehabilitate drug addicts in advance, before the vice is acquired. He said that in his own country there are groups of young people who have started using drugs, but that it is not the most important problem in Peru.

Joint Statement Issued

PA122352 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0256 GMT 12 Apr 86

["Joint statement of the Uruguayan and Peruvian presidents" signed in Montevideo by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias and Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner; dated 11 April 1986 -- read by unidentified person]

[Text] At the invitation of Uruguayan President Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti, Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez paid an official visit to Uruguay on 10-12 April 1986. The two presidents held cordial and fruitful talks which permitted them to confirm the high degree of (?friendship) and understanding [words indistinct]. Convinced that the relations between Latin American countries should be guided by a new spirit of solidarity [words indistinct] that, taking upon themselves Latin America's historical desire to attain a genuine unity as a means to ensure their peoples' development and well-being and the exercise of the roles that they should play as international [words indistinct], the presidents have issued this joint statement.

Inspired by the permanent integrationist nature of Uruguay and Peru, this nature being affirmed by the practice of representative democracy, the presidents have agreed to make their best efforts to foster a community of Latin American nations through a balanced and harmonious development of the relations among the region's countries to guarantee peace and security, foster their overall development, and make their presence felt in the international community. With an eye to affirming the cultural identity that serves as the basis for this inter-American community, the presidents agree to share the successes, the illustrious persons, and national distinguished persons who embody the best Latin American values. They will be regarded as their own by all our peoples. [Words indistinct] the establishment of a common Latin American nationality that, without any harm to national particularities, encourages our unity and affirms our identity in the eyes of the world. Similarly, recalling the Lima statement of 29 July 1985, a commitment to establish regular mechanisms for consultation and political coordination among countries of the region in order to discuss matters of common interest in third countries, groups of countries, and in national forums, has been affirmed.

The Uruguayan president voiced his full support for the Peruvian president's proposal to establish in Latin America a United Nations center for peace, disarmament, and development. He also gladly welcomed the Peruvian president's offer for Lima to be the site for this center.

With a similar purpose, they agreed to stress the need to reorient regional markets and encourage the formation of a Latin American common market to counter the negative aspects of the current international economic order, (?protect) the vulnerability of the economies of the region's countries, and speed up their development. The presidents vigorously condemned drug trafficking, which constitutes a crime against mankind, and underlined the pressing need for all international countries and organizations involved in this problem and its solution in various ways, to assume their responsibilities fully and properly.

The presidents said that the problem of the foreign debt constitutes the most serious political and economic issue that the Latin American countries confront, and that its solution should be oriented toward strengthening democratic stability in the region and (?struggling) for the peoples' genuine right for development and well-being. They agreed to state that the treatment of the debt should take place from a political perspective. Considering its economic aspect, they reaffirmed the unpostponable necessity for the Latin American economies to grow. The outlines for the solution of the debt should be dependent on this growth.

The Peruvian president expressed his gratitude for the many and very cordial considerations accorded him by the Uruguayan Government and people during his stay in the country. This indicates the traditional and the ever closer feelings of brotherhood between the two nations.

[Signed] Montevideo, 11 April 1986.

Garcia Departs

PY121248 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1225 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Apr (EFE) -- Peruvian President Alan Garcia today left Uruguay where he was paying an official 2-day visit 3 hours earlier than scheduled. Garcia's departure was scheduled for 0945 local (1245 GMT), but he actually left at 0720 local time (1020 GMT). This sudden departure surprised the press and some authorities. Yesterday Garcia displayed concern over the upsurge of violence in Peru, and this may have prompted him to return to Lima earlier than scheduled. President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and some of the ministers bade farewell to Garcia on a dark morning while heavy rains were falling in Montevideo.

BORDER SETTLEMENT DISPUTE WITH BRAZIL PERSISTS

PY111322 Paris AFP in Spanish 0211 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 10 Apr (AFP) -- The local press today reported that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry has rejected a protest lodged by the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry over the establishment of a settlement in a 25,000-hectare piece of land located 500 km north of Montevideo, on the border with Brazil. Early in 1985 the previous Brazilian administration decided to establish the Thomas Albornoz Village in the region which, according to local authorities, falls inside the Uruguayan department of Artigas.

Uruguayan Foreign Ministry sources consulted by AFP have declined to confirm or deny a report that the note sent by the Uruguayan Government last year was rejected by the Brazilian Government. In March 1985 the Uruguayan Government announced that there was a demarcation mistake in that region and that it would apply great care in adopting decisions that would protect the integrity of the national territory. The notes exchanged between the two foreign ministries are being kept secret by the Uruguayan authorities.

STALEMATE NOTED IN USSR COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS

PY101559 Montevideo Radio El Espectador in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] There is a stalemate in the commercial negotiations with the Soviet Union. It has been reported that the Foreign Ministry has rejected Moscow's counterproposal to a Uruguayan proposal of progressively increasing trade, with the goal of exporting goods worth $120 million to the Soviet market over the next 3 years.

FALSE BOMB THREAT AT U.S. EMBASSY REPORTED

PA120151 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0141 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Apr (EFE) -- For the second time this week the U.S. Embassy in this capital received a bomb threat today, which turned out to be false, a U.S. Embassy source told EFE.

The same source announced that despite these anonymous threats work activities have not been suspended and that only the entrance of some persons who had affairs to take care of in the embassy, located in the downtown part of this city, was banned.

The source noted that on two occasions embassy security personnel have carried out a thorough check of the installations, "but, fortunately, no bomb has been found."

SILVA HERZOG SPEAKS ON DEBT AT IMF IN U.S.

FL101626 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2150 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 9 April (NOTIMEX) -- Debtor countries have a diminished capacity for maneuvering in applying greater adjustment measures, because, despite the policies they have applied to date, they have not achieved the expected economic results.

Mexican Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Jesus Silva Herzog made this statement today while speaking in the name of Mexico, Spain, and Venezuela at the meeting of the internal committee of the IMF, which is being held in Washington. The Mexican official added that it is fully cognizant of the political and economic dimensions of the same. He stressed that it is indispensable that the creditors show a greater willingness than they have to date to share the responsibility and the sacrifices. He said that in the past 3 years Latin America has transferred more than $100 billion dollars in interest payments, which represents 5.5 percent of the region's gross domestic product (GDP).

Silva Herzog has said that this process has become an obstacle for the debtor economies because resources that could be used to increase export capacity are used in the transfer of these funds. In a similar fashion, he said, the difficulties of covering the service of the debt discourage physical and financial investment, creating a climate of uncertainty and unfavorable social expectations.

The Mexican finance secretary said the Baker Plan has little chance of success although he recognized the merit of the initiative. The official said adjustments are now impossible because the product per capita in Latin America is now 9 percent less than in 1980.

He said the region is finding increasing difficulty in creating jobs, and its work force is increasing from 3 to 3.5 percent annually in addition to suffering simultaneous salary drops of from 20 to 40 percent in real terms. In addition to the preceding, he said, no firm intention on the part of the commercial banks to renew voluntary credits to developing countries is being observed, besides which they are maintaining orthodox criteria on problems that are not acquiring dimensions different from the ones they had 13 years ago.

Silva Herzog said that the way of viewing the debt has changed since the beginning of the crisis. He said that in the great majority of the debtor countries, the debt has a broad political content because, despite the expenditures made, the expected economic results have not been achieved.

75TH IPU CONFERENCE CONTINUES IN MEXICO CITY

Host Group Proposes Solution

PA101622 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] At the 75th IPU Conference Mexico has proposed the solution of long-standing problems and maladjustments in the development process of nations, the improvement of economic and financial relations, and the search for a new world economic order.

Here we have a report by Hector Gonzalez Perez and Judith Alamo.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalo Perez] The deterioration of the international market and high interest rates have created uncertainty and the material impossibility for debtor countries to cover their financial commitments.

[Alamo] By presenting its draft resolution on international trade, the foreign debt, and the growth of developing countries, Mexico established that the reinforcement of protectionism limits the exporting capacity and the payment of the foreign debt.

[Gonzalo Perez] During IPU meeting it was explained that the depletion of capital in debtor countries decreases the possibilities for growth and development.

[Alamo] The Mexican document stated that, due to the heavy burden of their financial commitments, the people's standard of living is seriously affected.

[Gonzalo Perez] During their presentation, the Mexican parliamentary group noted that if protectionist measures, the deterioration in the price of oil and raw materials, and the high interest rates continue, it will be impossible to improve the people's standard of living thus threatening the political and social stability of the developing countries.

[Alamo] For this reason, the Mexican resolution said, we must boost international trade, pay attention and solve long-standing problems and maladjustments in the development process of nations, improve economic and financial relations at the international level, and search for a sustained advance in the construction of a new world economic order.

[Gonzalo Perez] The Mexican document proposes that the legislators of the world advocate the movement of capital so it can encourage and expand the flow of international trade.

[Alamo] It also proposes the promotion of cooperation programs as the main part of development in order to diversify the use of technology.

[Gonzalo Perez] It also points to the need to improve the use of world resources, and the modification of structures and trade exchange to make trade a more equitable instrument that will result in better salaries, consumption, and living conditions for the world's population.

[Alamo] The draft resolution recommended that the parliament members of the world promote the adoption of global cooperation strategies to resolve the problems of trade, debt, and financing in order to find a lasting solution for inequality.

L.A. Parliament Head Comments

FL092110 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2330 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Latin American Parliament will attempt to persuade the U.S. Congress to make a commitment to become involved in talks aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis, its president, Argentine Luis Leon has asserted. He indicated that the Latin American countries participating in the 75th IPU meeting reached a consensus to ask the United States to eliminate foreign intervention in Central America's domestic affairs.

Leon said that he will go to Washington next Friday to deliver the Guatemala declaration and ask U.S. congressmen for a compromise solution to the Central American regional crisis. After noting that the Contadora Group is valid within diplomatic political efforts, the Parliament member underscored that Latin America has to stop issuing declarations and begin defining situations. The Latin American Parliament will be the guardian of Latin America's independence if President Ronald Reagan openly attempts to obtain resources to launch military actions in the continent. Leon called for those in charge of making political decisions in Latin America to have more courage because there are still some leaders who think creditors are more important than the people.

The Latin American Parliament believes it is extremely important to hold an urgent summit meeting between Latin American heads of state and government to eradicate economic colonialism in Latin America. It favored the creation of a negotiated moratorium between creditors and debtors to enable indebted countries to replan their economies with greater independence. Leon asserted that in the last 4 years Latin America paid its creditors $106 billion in interest and said the Baker Plan is no longer a solution for indebted countries.

He concluded saying that the Latin American Parliament intends to establish a dialogue in which ideologies do not contribute to provoke a war but to establish pluralism which will encourage regional integration without foreign intervention.

FRG on Cancelling Part of Debt

FL102200 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2040 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The FRG today called for cancelling a part of the Third World's foreign debt and for the IMF to restructure payment conditions so that they would allow countries to meet their commitments while they continue their development. During a press conference, the FRG delegation that is attending the 75th IPU meeting in Mexico City said the Latin American foreign debt requires reforming international economic relations so that an equal basis can be created for regional countries.

Christian Democratic Union representative Michaela Geiger, Social Democratic Party representative Torsten Wolfgramm, said the debt problem is due to foreign factors as well as domestic. The delegates said among the foreign causes of the debt problem is the fall of raw material prices and the banks' generosity with loans without confirming the debtors' solvency. Among the domestic causes of debt problems are inadequate economic policies and excessive capital flight as is the case in Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia. Because of this, said the delegates, the industrialized countries will have to cancel a part of the Third World's foreign debt to give them an opportunity to get ahead and at the same time allow the creditors to recover part of their payments.

The FRG has cancelled the debts of 23 developing countries totalling 4.2 billion Deutsche marks, said the delegates. Nevertheless, they stressed trade, cultural, and political relations with Mexico and indicated that in 1985 German exports to Mexico increased by 23.3 percent and imports by 29.1 percent thereby dismissing any possible obstacles in future reciprocal trade.

In reference to Nicaragua, the delegates said U.S. aid to the contras is a violation of international human rights and said legislative disapproval of the aid would facilitate signing the Contadora Group's peace act as well as the democratization process in the region. The delegates indicated that after Somoza's dictatorship, Nicaragua can choose the democratic route promised by the Sandinists.

Cuban Delegate Interviewed

PA111635 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 Apr 86 p 14

[Article by Ruben Montedonico]

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, president of the Cuban delegation to the IPU Conference said to EL DIA: "Ronald Reagan has stated he is a counterrevolutionary: It is the biggest, if not the only truth he has said as President." During the talk, the vice president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government reviewed some points of the agenda of the IPU Conference, such as the arms race, the economic crisis, the Third World foreign debt, the Central American situation, and terrorism.

Regarding the economic crisis and the underdeveloped nations' foreign debt, Severo Aguirre said that the billion dollars that these nations owe is a heavy burden that becomes heavier every day and is unpayable. "No country can pay that, he said. [quotation marks as published]. Third World exports have been reduced, and by contrast the price of the products they import continues to increase. The Western developed nations like to buy at low prices and sell at very high prices. Hence, this is the third consecutive IPU meeting where this subject will be discussed.

As for the increase of terrorists activities in the world, the Cuban legislator said that the majority of the countries experiencing terrorism agreed to affirm that a substantial part of this activity is generated by colonialist and imperialist forces seeking to close the path to the struggle for national liberation, independence and sovereignty of many nations. Aguirre pointed out: "This is very evident in the case of the mining of Nicaraguan ports or in the case of Angola and other African nations." He added: "It is an evident terrorist policy to arm mercenary bands to then launch them against Nicaragua or Angola."

The Cuban representative also stated: "The practice of state terrorism carried out and directed by Ronald Reagan has expanded. The presence of the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Gulf of Sidra is a terrorist act against Libya. The same happens when democratic and progressive personalities are killed in some countries. The same happens in South Africa where the white minority regime kills the blacks and illegally occupies Namibia's territory to hinder the people's independence. The UN has agreed on this and has reiterated this several times."

Most of the speakers at the IPU conference adopted clear positions condemning terrorism, in particular the state terrorism frequently practiced by the United States. Aguirre said: "It has been demonstrated at this meeting how the peace problem is closely linked to the free and sovereign development of the nations. We hope that positive decisions will come out for the cause of the people and for peace."

The conversation turned to the recent meeting of the Latin American Parliament in Guatemala.

Aguirre attributed great importance to the meeting because it was the first time that the representatives of 18 Latin American parliaments had met and unanimously approved a document that clearly outlined the responsibility that a foreign power has in the Central American conflict. "The meeting arrived at a junction at which everyone made concessions to benefit unity. Everyone condemned the aggressive policy that the most radical groups in the United States -- represented by President Reagan -- are advancing in Nicaragua. They all agreed that the Contadora Group has not been successful thus far because the United States does not support a negotiated solution to the conflict, but instead favors a military solution through the intervention of mercenaries or regular troops or a combination of both. The goal is to crush the Sandinist revolution and El Salvador's patriotic forces who are fighting to democratize that tiny nation and to guarantee its people's human rights."

Severo Aguirre, a seasoned political leader, took a deep breath and continued: "Reagan declared himself a counterrevolutionary. That is the biggest if not the only truth he has said as president." A peaceful and definitive solution to the Central American problem must be discussed with him. We applaud the Sandinists' willingness to enter into talks with the United States to resolve the conflict in Nicaragua and the rest of the area."

The Cuban lawmaker said the Reagan administration's Central American policy has failed, recalling that when Reagan assumed the Presidency he promised to crush the Sandinists and the Salvadoran rebels. It will not be possible to keep that promise, he said. "Each country has the right to decide its own future. The White House should have learned by now that that principle cannot be replaced by its hegemonic interests." He closed his argument saying that the "U.S. policy strengthens the belief in the struggle shared by Nicaraguans and Salvadorans."

Aguirre ended the interview session with the following statement: "If there is direct aggression against Nicaragua this will bring enormous bloodshed; but in the end it will be an embarrassing defeat for the imperialists, as was the defeat at Playa Giron. To end, I would like to say that the U.S. Central American policy is absurd, unjust, and inhuman. At the same time, it has helped bring together all of Latin America's progressive peoples and governments. Therefore, in the event that the United States decides to intervene militarily in Central America, the move will be considered an aggression against all of us, and all of Latin America will mobilize to struggle against the common enemy."

Delegates Warn of Hunger

PA111312 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Report by Hector Gonzalez Perez]

[Text] The representatives of African, Asian, and European countries warned today that unless the arms race and the current deterioration of trade exchange are arrested the world will be exposed to another catastrophe: hunger.

During the 4th day of sessions of the 75th IPU meeting, it was said that the nuclear and economic crises are intimately interrelated and that if those two problems are not resolved the world situation will explode.

The gap between rich and poor must not be allowed to continue to increase, the Vietnamese delegate said, adding that if that situation persists the developed, industrialized countries' systems will collapse. and they will inherit the poverty of today's poor countries.

The European delegates called for solidarity. They acknowledged that the deterioration of the world's economy and the arms race cause inequalities in society. The Norwegian representative encouraged the coordination of efforts, greater technical assistance for developing countries, and the promotion of health programs. She said that the current crisis fosters impatience, inequality, and uncertainty regarding the future of mankind.

Meanwhile, the Cameroon delegate said that if the industrialized, developed nations do not do something to remedy the world situation conditions will take on increasingly catastrophic proportions.

During today's discussions the representatives of the more than 90 countries participating in the IPU meeting will continue to examine the economic situation, the foreign debt, and the various options developing countries have.

Host Withdraws on Mideast

PA112201 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] The delegation of Mexican legislators participating in the activities of the IPU, has withdrawn its representatives from the committee which is drafting a resolution on the Middle East conflicts. Members of the delegation said that their decision is based on proposals that oppose the principles of nonintervention and self-determination of the peoples. The delegation feels that the text of the resolution opposes the country's international principles. Addressing a message to the chairman of the drafting committee, the Mexican parliamentarians reiterated their conviction that regional tensions can be reduced and progress can be made in general disarmament only if the principle of nonintervention is upheld. Senator Patrocinio Gonzalez Garrido, member and secretary of the Mexican delegation, said that the decision was made because the draft resolution includes stances openly opposed to the principles of nonintervention, self-determination, and peaceful solution of controversies.

In the same message, which was signed by Deputy Alonso Aguirre Ramos, Mexico announces its determination not to participate in the discussion and approval of the document on the Middle East conflicts. After Mexico's decision was announced, the Israeli delegate said that, in order to settle the Middle East conflicts, the creation of a group similar to the Contadora Group is necessary.

NICARAGUA URGED TO COMPROMISE IN CONTADORA TALKS

PA110437 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 9 Apr 86 p 17

[Article by Rafael M. Rodriguez: "Contadora, the Last Card"]

[Text] It appears that the efforts made by Contadora to persuade Nicaragua to agree to new bases for the negotiations carried out by the group with the Central American countries were useless. Foreign Minister D'Escoto's position in the recently concluded meeting in Panama shows that there is no change in Nicaragua's refusal to sign the peace document until the United States pledges to end the support given to the contras to destabilize the Nicaraguan Government.

Contadora has now decided to play its last card. Nicaragua will have to decide between signing the final document or accepting the risk of international isolation and criticism if it fails to sign.

The reason for Nicaragua's decision -- lack of guarantees for its government -- is surprising at this stage of the process of negotiations. The points that still have to be approved are those related to arms control and reduction, and international military maneuvers. The debate on those points in the peace document has not concluded; yet Nicaragua has decided not to participate before exhausting all possibilities. Undoubtedly, Nicaragua is in a difficult position where those points are concerned. The U.S. threat persists, as well as the support for the contras. However, it would be worth asking, which is a greater risk for Managua: isolation, or a possible violation of the agreements in the document in the form of continued support for the contras and the complicity of third countries in offering territorial shelter to the anti-Sandinists. It seems precipitous on the part of Nicaragua to maintain its position in the terms in which it was defended by D'Escoto. The other four Central American countries have decided to support the position of the mediating group, and the latter, in turn, seems to be convinced that it has the necessary strength to impose its decision on the Sandinists. Contadora knows that if it fails to do so, it runs the serious risk of having the peace initiative come to a speedy end. The group is also aware that now it has full international support. It is also aware of the high price that Nicaragua would have to pay for its intransigence.

Nicaragua and Contadora are aware of this, and it is a challenge to them. The five Central American countries have been given 8 days to state whether or not they will participate in the drafting of the final peace document so that it will be ready for signing on 6 June. Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica have said yes, and they have stressed that Nicaragua should participate, too, because the success of the agreement largely depends on Nicaragua. Honduras, particularly, has reiterated the need for Managua to give priority to initiating an effort of internal reconciliation with the opposition, since this is the key to beginning a dialogue with the United States on a realistic basis. The Contadora and Support Groups have also insisted on that. Europe has also exerted some pressure in this regard, as has been confirmed by the participation of the Spanish Government (Socialist International), which offered its good offices in this regard.

Nicaragua should now answer to the challenge that Contadora made to attain peace in Central America. Undoubtedly, it is necessary to negotiate, and we know that in any form of negotiation concessions have to be made, more so when it is power that is being negotiated. It seems that not to negotiate will be more costly than the most disadvantageous negotiation. Nicaragua must understand that the Central American stage is already a radically different one from that on which its revolution was triumphantly born. The state actors have been transformed, and new alliances can be made with them, but that, in principle, makes it necessary to acknowledge the compromises involved in alliances and their inevitable costs.

HERNANDEZ ON 'SOVEREIGN DECISION' TO JOIN GATT

PA140210 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico seeks to join GATT as a result of a totally sovereign decision and because of the advantages it will offer the country. The decision must not be adopted due to advice or foreign influence, Hector Hernandez, secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development [Secofin] said today before Secofin officials in Colima. Hernandez also said that Mexico's joining the GATT will not bring about an uncontrollable avalanche of imports, adding that current foreign trade policies reasonably protect locally manufactured products.

'STRICT SECURITY MEASURES' APPLIED TO CANAL

PA111722 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 Apr 86 p 1

[By Jaime Beitia]

[Text] The Panama Canal Commission yesterday applied strict security measures in places and public buildings under its jurisdiction in the face of threats by terrorist groups that they will attack U.S. positions in this country.

Those measures were implemented in the wake of reports in the local media that terrorist groups called "Revolutionary Committees of Panama," CRP, plan to destroy U.S. installations here. They did not rule out the U.S. diplomatic mission's or the interoceanic pathway's being targets.

Panama Canal Deputy Administrator Fernando Manfredo said that the U.S. and Panamanian Armed Forces have very specific joint plans to confront these potential threats. According to Manfredo, the Canal Commission is the first to recognize that the Canal could be the target of terrorist groups seeking notoriety.

However, special measures have already been taken to minimize this kind of threat, with the exclusive aim of guaranteeing the maximum security possible for people and installations in those areas. Those measures have been implemented in keeping with regulations and procedures specified by the U.S. Government, he added.

Meanwhile, measures similar to those applied by the Canal Commission were adopted at military bases and the diplomatic mission, because they are installations that would be attacked if the United states intensified its "blackmail" campaign in Libya, Nicaragua, and Panama [sentence as published].

GENERAL NORIEGA DISCUSSES REGIONAL SITUATION

PA122012 Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish 3-10 Apr 86 pp 5, 6, 7

["Outstanding portions" of an interview with Genral Manuel Antonio Noreiga, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces, by the Spanish International Network, SIN; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [SIN] Is the source of the violence in Nicaragua?

[Noriega] Precisely: The concept of a spiral of violence grows stronger due to several causes. In Nicaragua this has several causes. The Nicaraguan people are afraid of a border war; they are afraid that the situation may become destabilized. This is at the root of their fears: that the Central American conflict might escalate and spill over into the entire area. This is what they are afraid of.

[SIN] Who is to blame? Managua's Sandinist government, foreign intervention, or the United States?

[Noriega] The question is a very interesting one, but being a citizen of one of the countries that forms the Contadora Group and a soldier, if I were to answer it I would be interfering in matters pertaining to the Foreign Ministry.

Therefore, I would prefer to respect the principles of the Foreign Ministry.

Militarily we have our opinion; strategically we have our ideas. Strategically speaking, we feel that, geopolitically, Panamanian security must tackle the real problem [real tumor]. That is, and I repeat, on the other side of our border we have a defenseless nation. That nation does not have the capacity, the history of war, or the security mechanisms to respond to an expansion of violence. What I am doing is expressing views on violence, not discussing international relations with any country. However, that is our geopolitical impression of the problem. To guarantee the safety of the Canal, Panama needs to extend its borders toward Costa Rica. This must be done with the conscientious support of the two countries. Costa Rica understands this. Costa Rica's great leaders understand this and so do the people. They know that Panama will be their first resource, their first step in the defense. Panama provided this in the past when Costa Rica saw its borders threatened.

[SIN] You were right in saying that is a question to be answered by the Foreign Ministry. There is a difference between the politician and the soldier. The soldier has specific goals, he follows specific goals, and he achieves these goals. The politician, perhaps because of politics, is confused at times. There are political differences regarding Panama between the U.S. State Department and the Pentagon. It seemed that the Pentagon always followed a straight line in regard to Panama, however, many times it has tried to stab her back. Why these differences?

[Noriega] I wish to be positive, totally positive, because we are part of the Latin American community and because with the United States we are partners in a great task, the Panama Canal. We could say that we are now returning from a confrontation. Panama has implemented the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. These treaties have given the United States the chance to live and sleep peacefully on the Central American isthmus. This is because Panama is the conscientious and strategic partner.

I would say that if any differences exist between the two departments [State Department and Pentagon], these would be differences of opinion and views of the situation. But inside the great laboratory, at the decision-making table, all that is important favors Panama. Perhaps some influences, friendships, and political distortions are involved, but the Latin American situation itself demonstrates that Panama is the United States' best ally and partner and that Panama is the best place from which the United States can maintain peace in the region.

[SIN] The United States is accustomed to getting what it wants from practically every country on this continent. It also expects to get what it wants in Panama. I understand that the United States objects to Panama's secret banking system. What does it want from Panama?

[Noriega] When the banking center was created, following the recommendations made by the large U.S. economic organizations, we were experiencing a bonanza. One of the incentives for this banking center was the secret banking system. However, under the umbrella of this bonanza the tentacles of terrorism began to spread and grow: This was the drug traffic.

[SIN] Has the banking system been used to launder drug money?

[Noriega] This is exactly what is believed, and I can see the reason for this fear, because this very drug money would then be used to undermine security. However, mechanisms must be implemented, and we have suggested this, to stop this. One of the mechanisms is to fight against drug traffic.

However, the economic aspect of this issue and how it will affect the money that belongs to other people is not something for us to handle. This is up to the economic organizations. They are the ones that must find the best solution to this.

[SIN] General, that is a very interesting answer, and it brings us to another question. When you mention the shah, you said that this had been a Panamanian gesture toward our U.S. friends, you were referring to the Jimmy Carter administration. Comparing the past with the present administration, where does Panama stand? President Carter was called the friendly president. How would you describe President Reagan?

[Noreiga] Not all questions can be answered with a yes or no; some need explanations. I believe, and I said this at Harvard when Jimmy Carter's great historical role had yet to be recognized, that Jimmy Carter paid a costly personal and political price in the United States, but he managed to see a huge conflict in the offing. Just imagine what would have happened had the Torrijos-Carter Treaties not been implemented when they were. Today that problem would have been part of the Central American problem, and it would really be a time bomb.

Our relations with the Reagan administration are good, however we cannot say we are buddies. We are friends because Panama is its partner in the security guard company, and the United States is responsible for this company. Panama owns this land, and the Western Hemisphere and the whole world use our land. Our relations are respectful, and they are necessary. President Reagan is aware of the fact that this is needed for the future and that we are providing a strategic location. This is why he has said that the safety of the Canal could be endangered by certain actions.

[SIN] Panama plays an active role within Contadora. The Contadora Group foreign ministers have expressed their concern regarding the attitude of the Reagan government. First they say that they support Contadora then turn around and cut a hole under Contadora by giving support to the so-called contras, the FDN. Can you understand this?

[Noriega] This is a matter handled by diplomacy. However, we see that they hardly ever reach specific agreements. Violence is specific; violence is real. It is not an idea; it is not a dream. Death exists. Therefore, we must reach a specific point so that talks can begin. In the meantime I will not make any remarks, nor will I do anything. I do believe in the idea that Contadora must be strengthened. We also feel that Contadora should be strengthened militarily. A soldier knows of strategy. A soldier knows when he is being fooled by an adviser; when he is being fooled with the many sophisticated weapons or weapons that are foreign to the area. A soldier knows about the arms-population, arms-border, or arms-security proportions. Therefore, this should be handled by a section of the Contadora Group, without detracting merits, leadership, or honor from our political leaders in Contadora, who do not have military advisers to say that Nicaragua has failed, or is not fulfilling its commitments in this sense. We can prove this. Let Nicaraguan technicians come. We will demonstrate this. Military men speak another language, with which no one can deceive them. Everyone has heard about SALT II, a surface-to-air missile, etc. This is military jargon.

[SIN] Do you agree with the support for the contras?

[Noriega] As a Panamanian I prefer not to answer. I am the commander of the defense forces. This is why I prefer not to answer this question.

[SIN] You sound like a politician, General.

[Noriega] No. I simply believe that strategies should be kept secret. It is not a political matter. It is rather a state secret. Panama requires security. Its information should be kept secret and confidential.

[SIN] Torrijos threatened to blow up the Panama Canal if the treaty project failed to crystallize. As a demolition expert and the person in charge of security, did you participate in those plans?

[Noriega] Well, I think Torrijos said this to Jimmy Carter in a casual conversation. It was only a Torrijos' expression. He knew he should not do it because this would have been a sacrifice and, in addition, one of mankind's resources would have been destroyed. Torrijos presented this as a position of the moment.

[SIN] Like a poker move, a bluff?

[Noriega] Yes, exactly.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS -- Two new ambassadors have presented their credentials to President Eric Arturo Delvalle. They are new U.S. Ambassador Arthur H. Davis and Venezuelan Ambassador Enrique Peinado Barrios. [Summary] [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Apr 86 pC7 PA]

MALARIA CASES INCREASE -- Dr Alfredo Molto, general director of health, has denied that there is any dengue or yellow fever in the country but reported that approximately 400 cases of malaria have been detected nationwide. This means that there have been 200 more cases than in 1985. [Summary] [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 4 Apr 86 p 48 PA]

AREA FOREIGN MINISTERS PLANNING ESQUIPULAS MEETING

View Issues

PA112144 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] The Central American foreign ministers began a 2-day meeting in this capital today to prepare the presidential summit to be held in Esquipulas next month.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto arrived in Guatemala last night, and his colleagues from El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, Carlos Lopez Contreras, and Carlos Jose Gutierrez, respectively, arrived this morning. The first thing that D'Escoto did after receiving the greetings of Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita was to blame the United States for the standstill in the negotiation process for the signing of a peace treaty.

[Begin D'Escoto recording, in progress] ...but we will continue, I reiterate, to be willing to resume, as soon as possible, right now, today, the negotiating process to settle pending matters and to sign the document as soon as possible. But as I say, we insist that the demands made by Contadora, the Support Group, and the Central Americans be met. If the North Americans do not want to, then they are to blame -- not Nicaragua or any other country -- for [words indistinct] this process. [end recording]

Regarding the incursion by Sandinist troops during Holy Week, Honduran Foreign Secretary Lopez Contreras talked about the type of aid his government requested from the United States to face this situation:

[Begin Lopez Contreras recording] Honduras asked for a military assistance, which is within the framework of the bilateral security relations existing between the two states. This assistance, as it has been officially announced by the Honduran Government, initially consisted of the transportation of Honduran troops to an isolated sector that is difficult to reach by land, to secure our territorial sovereignty and expel the Nicaraguan troops who had entered Honduras. This was the extent of the request for military assistance that Honduras made. I cannot say anything more for reasons you can obviously understand. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez explained the circumstances under which the meeting held in Panama last week concluded without the signing of a peace agreement.

[Begin Gutierrez recording] What happened in Panama is that the 12 foreign ministers -- the 4 ministers of Contadora, the 4 of the Support Group, and 4 Central American -- reached an agreement. We reached an agreement on the Panama commitment at noon on Sunday. From then on, up until 1300 on Monday, all we did was to prepare an alternative formula so that the 13th participant, who did not want to sign the agreement, could have a formula that was acceptable. This resulted in something that was truly an anomaly: [Words indistinct] has 12 foreign ministers who accepted it, ratified it, and said that they were willing to implement it. Although an alternative formula was presened to the Nicaraguan foreign minister, he was unwilling to accept either the original formula or the alternative. [end recording]

In addition, the Guatemalan foreign minister reviewed the outlook for the upcoming meeting of Central American ministers from the Guatemalan viewpoint:

[Begin Quinonez Amezquita recording] As you know, the idea came from Guatemala, therefore, we feel that the parliament should have three [as heard] basic objectives which are: [words indistinct] the security of Central America -- and when I talk about security I am referring to how to maintain peace in Central America. The second objective is the political aspect. The parliament should be empowered to solve political problems within Central American borders in addition to solving economic problems. These would be the basic objectives that the parliament should have, but as I said, this is simply the Guatemalan opinion. We must learn the opinion of the other Central American countries. [end recording]

Approve Summit Agenda

PA120340 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0208 GMT 12 Apr 86

[By Mario Rolando Sierra]

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The foreign ministers of the five Central American countries, who held a 2-day meeting here, approved the four-point agenda that will be discussed by the presidents in the area during the summit to be held in May in Esquipulas.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita told ACAN-EFE that the foreign ministers' meeting "was very cordial and productive because we advanced significantly in preparing the agenda for the presidents' meeting."

The foreign ministers discussed, from noon Thursday until today, Friday, their view on the presidential summit, scheduled for 23 and 24 May this year in Esquipulas, a Guatemalan community close to the Honduran and Salvadoran border. According to Quinonez Amezquita, the following points were approved by the foreign ministers and "will be submitted to the Central American presidents for their final approval":

1. Contadora and the mechanisms concerning a political negotiation and security in the region;

2. The creation of a Central American parliament and its importance in the negotiation of all the political, economic, and security problems in Central America;

3. Reorganization of the Central American integration process (economic and social aspects), necessary procedures, and goals for cooperation with the EEC; and analysis of a future Central American economic and social community;

4. Strengthening of intraregional commerce and bases for the solution of the Central American debt.

Referring to the creation of a Central American parliament, which was suggested by President Vicinio Cerezo, Foreign Minister Quinonez Amezquita said: "A work commission will draft a project during a meeting next week in El Salvador."

"There is enthusiasm among the Central American foreign ministers concerning the creation of this parliament, and it is believed that it will be comprised of 10 parliamentary members for each country (a total of 50)," he added. The Guatemalan official emphasized: "The parliamentary members will first be appointed by each country, but the procedure will be discussed later, although direct elections are the best solution so that all political parties may be represented." He also said: "Once comprised, we will discuss which country will preside over it and where it will have its headquarters, although we might decide to have it on a rotational basis."

The preparatory meeting included the participation of Foreign Ministers Mario Quinonez Amezquita, from Guatemala; Miguel D'Escoto, from Nicaragua; Carlos Jose Gutierrez, from Costa Rica; Carlos Lopez Contreras, from Honduras; and Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, from El Salvador.

Quinonez Amezquita also revealed that they also discussed "the deadline -- which expires on Monday [as received] -- for signing the Contadora peace document, which was recently proposed in Panama." He said: "El Salvador already gave its reply and is ready to sign the document; Guatemala will also sign it after discussing the points concerning disarmament and security control; and Nicaragua promised to notify the foreign ministers and Contadora of its decision."

The Guatemalan foreign minister said that if Nicaragua refuses to sign the document "the other countries could do it, but this would be futile, because the conflict would still prevail." He underscored: "I think that we will know on Monday whether the document for peace and cooperation proposed by Contadora and the Support Group will be signed."

Quinonez Amezquita asserted that the Esquipulas summit "will also be attended by Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, because we will talk about Central America integration, and Panama also has the option of joining the Central American parliament." In conclusion, when referring to the joint Honduran-U.S. military maneuvers, with the participation of 9,000 soldiers, he said that "any rash arms and military buildup is bad and provokes a difficult situation in the area."

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT REGRETS NICARAGUAN CONTADORA STANCE

PA112023 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] The government, through the Foreign Ministry, has clarified its participation in the Contadora meeting held in Panama last weekend. Costa Rica attended the meeting with a willingness to set a deadline for the signing of the peace document. It was recalled that our delegation met with the Honduran and Salvadoran delegations prior to this meeting and that they issued a document that included a work plan. This plan included the dates to complete certain agreements and 29-31 May were the dates set for a meeting of the foreign ministers during which the peace document would be signed. The communique issued by the Foreign Ministry stated that from the moment the meeting began, Nicaragua stated that it could not sign the document under the current international situation. This was not the case with the other countries. The four other Central American countries accepted the so-called Panama commitment as proposed by Contadora and the Support Groups. According to the Panama commitment, the peace document should be signed on 6 June. The Costa Rican Government regretted the unwillingness displayed by Nicaragua and has ratified its determination to participate in the negotiations to come and sign the peace document on 6 June.

ARIAS DEPARTS ON 4-NATION TOUR 14 APRIL

PA131539 Paris AFP in Spanish 1502 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] San Jose, Apr 13 (AFP) -- Oscar Arias, president-elect of Costa Rica, will leave Monday 14 April, on a 1-week tour of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Peru.

The future Costa Rican leader, who will assume the Presidency on 8 May, will travel accompanied by Foreign Minister-designate Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, and the next deputy minister of government, Alvaro Ramos, as well as his press secretary, Lidiette Brenes.

Arias will meet with the presidents of the four countries -- Jose Sarney of Brazil, Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay, and Alan Garcia of Peru.

The social democrat Arias -- the winner of the 2 February elections -- is expected to return to Costa Rica the following Monday, 21 April.

MONGE AGREES TO WITHDRAW NEUTRALITY BILL

PA111940 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Excerpt] President Luis Alberto Monge has said that he has so much faith in the Costa Rican people that he would like to implement a plebiscite, or referendum, system, such as the one in Switzerland, to approve important bills. President Monge said that the people are very capable of making decisions on certain bills and added that he would love to see such a system implemented so that he could present the neutrality bill and have the people decide on this. The legislative debates on this issue have been affected for political reasons and in such a case the people would be asked to decide.

President Monge admitted that he had to negotiate with the Social Christian Unity [USC] to prevent a delay in the legislative work and that he had agreed to withdraw the neutrality bill. The president said that the USC was not willing to continue the debates and that he chose to leave several important bills to be handled by the next assembly. Monge said: We agreed to negotiate because we are interested in several other important bills, like the loans for the Cartago freeway. In order for this to be possible, we decided to withdraw several bills, including the neutrality bill.

Monge said that he was hurt because he had to give in and withdraw the neutrality bill, but politics is a realistic science and it was useless to keep those bills at the Assembly because this would mean that other important bills would not be discussed. Monge said: To get approval for some important bills I was forced to withdraw several bills, including the neutrality bill.

EL SALVADOR

GEN BLANDON VIEWS DISPLACED PERSONS PROBLEM

PA120009 San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish 0130 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said that the displaced problem is an integral part of the military plans for 1986.

[Begin recording] We are doing everything possible so that the people who have left the areas of conflict due to the pressures resulting from the current conflicting situation in the country can return to their homes to take care of their properties and work their land.

As part of a propaganda campaign to discredit the Armed Forces, it has been said that the troops force the people to leave those areas, but this is not true.

The truth is that after many years of conflict, these people can no longer stand the situation. They have said that they are tired of working for the subversives, because they must maintain them, feed them, and build fortifications and trenches. This situation has made them desperate, and they are now leaving the Guazapa and Chalatenango areas.

We have been frank with them. Whenever they have gathered at the command post, or in any other place under the auspices of the Red Cross and the Catholic Church, we have told them frankly that those who wish to return to their homes can do so; those who do not want to can go to a refugee camp or to an area for displaced people under the guidance of the Red Cross. The majority chose to go to the displaced areas for the reasons I mentioned before; very few of them have tried to return.

In some specific cases, as in the Guazapa area, I believe that the displaced people are being manipulated. They are being used as a political instrument. At no time have we opposed their return to Guazapa. The only requirement we have made is that we need to have a control, and therefore we want to know their names, where they are going to live, what they plan to do for a living, to have a control on the population in the area. This is for their own security more than anything else. [end recording]

HIGH COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON KIDNAPPINGS

PA112346 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2100 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Communique issued by Salvadoran Armed Forces High Command; read by unidentified announcer direct from Copreta headquarters -- date not given]

[Text] Regarding the investigations being conducted by the security corps to clarify and determine who is responsible for several kidnappings, which in turn affect the nation's public security, the Armed Forces High Command states:

1. Its firm determination to continue the investigations to clarify the kidnappings, so that those implicated can be arrested and judged by the pertinent courts, in accordance with the law.

2. This determination, which is based on its constitutional duties of maintaining peace, tranquillity, and public security, is supported by all the brigadier commanders, general directors, commanders, and chiefs of other branches of the Armed Forces.

3. Should any member of the armed institution be involved in the kidnappings, the Armed Forces is willing to support all the necessary legal actions so that the person can be thoroughly investigated and so that the court can determine his guilt or innocence.

4. Regarding the rumors and speculations concerning the incidents noted in the media, in which names of civilians and military personnel are specified: Out of respect for the individuals' prestige and honor, it is recommended that reports be based exclusively on the official information made available at an opportune time by the investigating authorities, in order not to hamper the investigations.

5. Consequently, the Armed Forces reiterates its commitment to the Salvadoran people in the sense that it will continue with its efforts to carry forward all the necessary actions that will contribute to maintaining and safeguarding the institutions's prestige in complying with its constitutional role.

Peace is our objective!

COPREFA REPORTS HELICOPTER CRASH NEAR SAN MIGUEL

PA122322 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Coprefa communique; read by unidentified reporter]

[Text] An air accident has occurred in San Miguel. A helicopter of the Salvadoran Air Force crashed today in Agua Zarca canton, 5 km northwest of the city of San Miguel. The aircraft, a UH-1H, was on a routine mission in the area at the time of the tragedy. According to preliminary investigations, the helicopter plunged into a hill in the area as a result of bad weather and mechanical failures. The crew members, 2d Lieutenants Carlos Alejandro Orellana and Jose Roberto Calderon and gunnery soldiers Efrain Diaz Chicas and Gerbert Orlando Rivera died in the accident.

FMLN Claims Downing

PA130145 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0010 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] Attention: We have a last-minute report. The FMLN has downed a helicopter in the country's eastern region. We repeat: The FMLN has downed a helicopter of the Duartist Armed Forces in the country's eastern region. We can give a preliminary report that a special FMLN unit has downed a U.S.-made Duartist Air Force helicopter, a UH-1H helicopter. The helicopter was downed north of the city of San Miguel, in the area of Agua Zarca, Las Mesas.

We repeat: A UH-1H U.S.-made helicopter has been downed by a special FMLN unit. This Saturday, 12 April, in the morning, a special FMLN unit downed this helicopter in the area of Agua Zarca, Las Mesas. The preliminary reports we have received confirm that the helicopter's crew, including two officers, died.

We are expecting more reports on this new guerrilla victory of the FMLN in El Salvador's eastern region. With the downing of this helicopter, our guerrilla forces have downed 44 aircraft. The FMLN had already said that it was going to improve its technical anti-aircraft capabilities, and we are doing it. We urge our people to be on the alert for reports we are expecting from the area north of San Miguel where the U.S.-made helicopter was downed.

We repeat: This morning, a special FMLN unit downed a military helicopter of the Duartist military regime. As soon as we receive more information on this, we will broadcast it to our people. Revolutionary greetings to the FMLN unit that this Saturday downed another vulture of [General Rafael] Bustillo.

Further Report

PA131600 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The FMLN has downed a helicopter of the Duartist Air Force. On 12 April, in the early morning, a special anti-aircraft unit of the Amilcar Hernandez Battalion of the FMLN Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade downed a U.S.-made UH-1H helicopter in the area of Agua Zarca, a few kilometers north of San Miguel. Our anti-aircraft unit was in that area to ambush a helicopter used by the top commanders of the 3d Infantry Brigade, headquartered in San Miguel. In the downed helicopter there were two 2d lieutenants who were pilots, and two gunnery soldiers. The entire crew was killed.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS ARMY ACTIONS IN ARCATAO

PA112026 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Radio Venceremos, voice of the workers, peasants, and guerrillas, begins this program reiterating the report about the incidents that occurred in Arcatao, Chalatenango Department, at approximately 0545 on Tuesday, 8 April, three A-37 planes, two (?OB) light airplanes, and three helicopter gunships heavily bombed and strafed Arcatao and its surroundings.

At 0700, 23 transport helicopters arrived at the area, bringing a squad of paratroopers who were reinforced by treasury police on the ground. These troops immediately began to surround the town, and later they search houses at gunpoint, insulting and hitting people and forcing them to gather in the church.

A few minutes later Colonel Caceres Cabrera arrived and immediately ordered his troops to savagely torture children, elderly people, and women. They violently interrogated them by crisscrossing their chests with a knife and demanded to know why they had not supported the troops on 16 March when they carried out their civic action tasks.

The report from Chalatenango indicated that the torturers painted and covered their faces. The only one who did not cover his face was Colonel Caceres Cabrera who, amid savage tortures, ordered that the torturers cut the throats of Edmundo Lopez, Domingo Rosas, an individual known as Lolo, and another unidentified person, all of them elderly men.

The crimes and tortures carried out by the puppet troops, headed by Colonel Caceres Cabrera, on Tuesday, 8 April, lasted 12 hours during which they ransacked and destroyed the houses and businesses of Arcatao. At the end of the action against the civilian population, Caceres Cabrera gave the people 48 hours to leave the town or the Salvadoran Air Force would make the town disappear completely. As is known, three foreign correspondents -- two of them LATIN-REUTER employees and one of them a BBC correspondent -- were captured in this genocide action. The puppet Army, headed by Caceres Cabrera, seized their journalistic material from them. This action shows Napoleon Duarte's democratic masquerade that [words indistinct] freedom of information, clearly showing the true criminal and corrupt nature of this regime.

We recall that in December 1981 Colonel Caceres Cabrera, together with the late Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, headed the El Mozote genocidal action. More than 1,000 peasants were cruelly killed in this action. After that, Caceres Cabrera became known as the executioner of El Mozote. We reiterate our call to humanitarian organizations and the church to help the Arcatao residents, victims once more of the terrorist actions of Napoleon Duarte's puppet Army.

GUATEMALA

ALLEGED LIBYAN-LINKED AIRLINER THREAT 'BAD JOKE'

PA130404 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2334 GMT 12 Apr 86

[By Mario Rolando Sierra]

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Apr (EFE) -- Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez told EFE today that "there is no indication that there is a pro-Libyan command in Guatemala." He made the statement after an alleged terrorist threat against an Iberia airplane was reported.

The minister said: "Neither the government nor its security organizations have any evidence that there is a Libyan or pro-Libyan commando operating in the country." The foreign minister stated that last Thursday's threat that a bomb would explode in an airplane of the Spanish airline Iberia "was an unfounded rumor."

The daily EL GRAFICO reported today that "an arm of international terrorism, presumably supported by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, head of the Libyan revolution, could be in Central American territory, specifically in Guatemala." The morning newspaper noted this hypothesis in referring to a threat that "a bomb would explode in an Iberia airplane that flew to Panama Thursday at noon." The Iberia office in this capital received a telephone call in Spanish "warning about a bomb." Government security forces and explosives experts went to the airport and carefully searched the installations and the airplane. They concluded that it had been "a false alarm."

The supposed anonymous terrorist had said that the airplane would explode, "because Libya will never be defeated by U.S. imperialism." The foreign minister today said: "Nothing happened. Fortunately, the warning was just that and the plane landed normally in the Panamanian capital."

EL GRAFICO wonders if "the eyes of Al-Qadhdhafi are upon Central America" and concludes that with the warning or threat to blow up the plane that made a technical stopover at 1100, "there is the possibility that terrorist commandos who are followers of the Libyan leader could be in Central America."

Security authorities view the incident "as a bad joke," but nevertheless, prevention and control measures have been increased at La Aurora Airport. Devices that detect arms and explosives have been placed at the main gates, and passengers boarding airplanes of the various international airlines are being carefully checked.

Foreign Minister Quinonez stated he has been informed that "no Libyan citizen has entered Guatemala in the past 2 months, although there is no prohibition against them entering as tourists." However, as a result of the conflict that has emerged between the United States and Libya, the watch at the U.S. Embassy and other U.S. entities in Guatemala has been increased.

GAM HOLDS WEEKLY DEMONSTRATION FOR MISSING

PA121341 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] As it has been doing every Friday, the Mutual Support Group [GAM] today demonstrated in front of the National Palace to demand that President Cerezo (?suspend) delaying measures and frankly and openly confront the past and the 40,000 people who have been reported missing. They demanded the immediate formation of a mixed investigating commission, including representatives of governmental and nongovernmental agencies, to clarify the fate of the thoudands of Guatemalans reported missing during the years of repression of military governments.

The group's protests occur in the framework of a certain hostility between this group and President Cerezo. Their relations began to deteriorate after their first meetings. Meanwhile, GAM has continued its struggle and does not plan to give up. Its president, Linette de Garcia, accompanied by Erlindo Jucho, member of the board of directors, is touring European countries seeking international solidarity with their cause. In her statements to the European press, De Garcia vigoriously reported that human rights violations have continued in Guatemala despite the change of government which, contrary to what was anticipated, responds to a military policy.

AZCONA LINKS U.S. ADVISERS, CONTADORA SIGNING

PA120002 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2346 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Madrid, 11 Apr (EFE) -- If Nicaragua signs the Contadora Document, in 24 hours there will not be a single U.S. soldier or military adviser left in Honduras, President Jose Azcona Hoyo told the "Hour 25" program of the Spanish radio station "Cadena Ser." During the program Azcona also denied that his country is being pressured by the U.S. Government to intervene militarily in Nicaragua. Regarding the statement by the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa about coordination between Libya and Nicaragua to carry out a terrorist campaign in Honduras, Azcona Hoyo did not dismiss such a possibility.

The Honduran president denied that he is acting under Washington's orders. "I am not," he said, "a lackey of the U.S. Embassy in my country; my greatest concern is the increasing arms buildup in Nicaragua."

Jose Azcona, who spent most of his youth in Spain, told "Hour 25" in conclusion that he might make an official visit to our country during the coming year.

Further Remarks

PA120204 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0035 GMT 11 Apr 86

[By German Reyes]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- President Jose Azcona Hoyo said today that his country is nobody's lackey and will never kneel to any nation.

This morning the Honduran president granted an extensive telephone interview to a Spanish radio and television network. He said that Honduras will never engage in a war with Nicaragua. He noted: "Mr Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, knows perfectly well that Honduras does not want war with Nicaragua, despite the fact we are concerned about the consolidation of a Marxist system in that country."

The Honduran chief of state said that the approval or rejection of the $100 million in aid that Reagan has requested for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries is a problem of the United States, not of Honduras. He also said that the rebels struggling against the Managua government must fight in Nicaraguan territory. The president said that Nicaragua's problem is of a domestic nature, because the liberties to which people are entitled are not respected in that country. The Honduran Government is concerned with the arms race and the consolidation of Nicaragua's political system, "because it could have repercussions on our country in the future," the president said.

He added: "We hereby reiterate that we do not want war with that neighboring country, which has more than 250,000 troops, while we have barely 17,000 men, including the police." Honduras believes that Nicaragua's arsenal amounts to more than $1 billion in military weapons, that liberties are not respected in Nicaragua, and that the people have to form lines to acquire food.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega "has said that the Soviet Union and other friendly nations have provided these arms free of cost in exchange for I do not know what, as no one gives anything away for nothing," the Honduran president said.

Azcona Hoyo then went on to say that his country has serious economic and social problems and that he, as a democrat, struggles to promote social justice as much as possible.

He said he is against the ultraright, and explained that his party, the Liberal Party, is more to the left than to the right, to such a degree that to a certain extent it sympathizes more with the U.S. Democratic Party than with the Republican Party, which represents the political line of President Reagan.

We are accused of obeying orders from the United States, "but that is not true. We are a nation with dignity, and we will not kneel to anyone," Azcona said. He noted that no European nation or that of any other part of the world has the courage to "confront" the United States and that many countries criticize Honduras for being an ally of the United States.

He also referred to the presence of U.S. military installations in several European countries and to Spain's decision to remain in NATO despite the fact that this organization is directed by the United States. He noted: "No one says a thing about the installation of euromissiles over there." "What happens," he added, "is that we are in a region under more influence. This, however, does not mean that we are a lackey country. We have problems, and we are looking for ways to resolve them for the benefit of our people."

The Honduran president, whose parents were born in Spain, said he lived in Spain for many years, when the Iberian Peninsula was facing big problems. He said: "I lived in Spain during the days when workers had one tomato for dinner. Now I am happy because the land of my parents has overcome many problems."

During the interview, which was broadcast in this capital by the Voz de Honduras Network, President Azcona referred to his country's grave economic problems resulting from the crisis affecting all the countries of the world, including the developed countries. Azcona believes that it would be suitable for all the underdeveloped countries to unite to jointly negotiate the foreign debt. He also accused the big powers of paying low prices for the products they buy and of charging high prices for what they sell, something that represents a grave problem for the economies of small countries.

He noted: "All the big countries have squeezed" the poor countries. "We sell them cacao, and they send back expensive chocolate bars." Azcona concluded by saying that he will go to Europe next year and that he could visit Spain. "But now," he said. "I cannot go because in this country we still have some archaic systems, to the degree that every single agreement must go through the Presidential House. This represents a very tiresome task that requires many hours of work."

AZCONA ANSWERS CRITICISM OF ADMINISTRATION

PA111857 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Interview with President Jose Azcona Hoyo by reporter David Romero Ehrler at Presidential House -- live, broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Azcona]..No, I do not think there is any interest in destabilizing. In the case of Post Office [workers' strike] the union played the matter up somewhat. I think they should have held talks before adopting those decisions. However, I think the matter is already settled.

[Romero] Previous governments have resorted to force to control strikes by trade union movements.

Are you prepared to use violence to quell this type of protest demonstration?

[Azcona] No. I will not carry out any acts of repression. Even in the case of demonstrations, anyone wishing to stage demonstrations one way or the other can do so perfectly well. We are in a completely free country. There will be no repression of any kind.

[Romero] Engineer Azcona, are you satisfied with the manner in which you have handled public administration thus far in view of some of the sectors' attempts to criticize you?

[Azcona] No strong criticisms have been made by any sector. I think that the criticisms that this government has been working slowly are sometimes due to a lack of information. I say it is the contrary. Perhaps what has been lacking is publicity about what we have done.

[Romero] Did you investigate your close aide who said, or tried to contradict, [statements] here at Presidential House and said that the United States pressured you into seeking aid?

[Azcona] Well, I think that everyone must [word indistinct] his conscience. I have not investigated. I do not know if this was true because all that has been aid is not very coherent. You know, it might even be someone who is not a close government aide who, looking for notoriety, spoke to reporters about this controversial and current topic.

[Romero] This ends this exclusive talk with Engineer Jose Azcona Hoyo, who has discussed several aspects of his administration during these past 90 days in office with us.

SANDINIST TROOPS FREED; EXCHANGE EXPECTED

PA111901 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1740 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduras today turned over to Nicaraguan Ambassador Danilo Abud Vivas seven Sandinist soldiers captured inside Honduran territory during Easter Week. The soldiers were turned over to their government representative at the offices of the Honduran Red Cross in the presence of International Red Cross officials and members of the local and international press.

The Honduran Government and Army representatives stressed that the transfer of the prisoners was a "gesture of goodwill" by Honduras, expressing their hope that "the aggressive actions by Nicaragua's Sandinist Army will not be repeated."

The soldiers who were released are Mario Salomon Hernandez Mayorga and Carlos Sandino Ocon of the "Francisco Estrada" Battalion and Rolando Jose Flores Tinoco, Panfilo Gutierrez Martinez, Bayardo Ramon Ulloa, Jose Mejia Bonilla, and Jose Abraham Sosa Aleman of the "German Pomares" Battalion. The Sandinist soldiers were captured during a Nicaraguan military incursion into Honduras in mid-March.

All of the prisoners are in good health, except Carlos Sandino Ocon, who underwent surgery in Tegucigalpa's Chest Hospital, where he is recovering from the operation.

Ocon will remain under the responsibility of the Honduran Red Cross, which will repatriate him as soon as he is released from the hospital. His comrades-in-arms left for Nicaragua today aboard a special flight.

Ambassador Vivas said that to reciprocate the gesture today the Nicaraguan Government will release 12 sailors and a Honduran vessel currently being held.

ANTI-U.S. 'MISINFORMATION' CAMPAIGN DENOUNCED

PA110358 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 10 Apr 86 p 31

[By Carlos Matute Rivera]

[Text] La Ceiba -- Colonel Carlos O. Reyes Barahona, commander of the 4th Infantry Battalion with headquarters in this city, has stated that a misinformation campaign has been unleashed here to deceive the people and make them believe that the Americans are in Honduras to inflict damage, thus creating a deliberately erroneous picture to confuse the people.

The military officer issued this statement during the ceremony to mark the closure of Course C-1-7, which was given by Group 7 of the U.S. Army's Special Forces to Riflemen Company A, Military Police, and other members in the unit.

Reyes Barahona added that a campaign was recently launched to discredit Honduras, particularly its Armed Forces, so small mistakes have been sought and exploited in such a way that the people will think that the Americans must leave the country.

The 4th Infantry Battalion commander said in his statement that he wanted to mention this because Hondurans who are aware of the problems we are facing should reject this campaign and remember that no one will deter the Armed Forces from fulfilling their duty of training all the members so that they may fulfill their constitutional duties. We will continue to fulfill our duties and carry out our training programs, particularly receiving the aid the U.S. Army gives us, he emphasized. "We have witnessed how different private and official organizations have been infiltrated by these campaigns; many people have fallen for these political campaigns. Let us hope that those who have fallen for this lie will not try to amend their ways when it is too late, because they would be sacrificing their lives and the lives of innocent people as soon as the terrorists see that the way is open and made easier by the negligence and complicity of people who still do not believe, or do not understand, what is taking place in Central America."

The ceremony was honored by the presence of Americans who are at the 4th Infantry Battalion, including Major William Carlton Counsil, commander of the 7th Group of the U.S. Army's Special Forces.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT VIEWS AREA PROBLEMS

PA111530 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Interview with Carlos Orbin Montoya, president of the Honduran National Congress, by Jose Emilio Soriano at the Rotary Club in Tegucigalpa; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Montoya] We have based our international policy on the defense of our security and on peace.

[Soriano] In what order?

[Montoya] In that order, and we respect the peaceful solutions within the norms of international law; therefore, we will defend all the international agreements we have signed.

We recognize our military alliance with the United States. This is the formal side; the political side is that we will put forth our best efforts to maintain peace in the region and for us to remain neutral. We consider the Nicaraguan problem a by-product of that revolution's pro-Soviet alignment. This alignment creates elements for confrontation in the region. So long as this is not resolved in Nicaragua, it will be very difficult to achieve internal peace in that country.

[Soriano] What can the Honduran National Assembly do about an unconventional army such as the anti-Sandinist Army?

[Montoya] We try to keep it out of Honduras.

[Soriano] How?

[Montoya] We hope that with the aid they receive from the United States and other sectors they will be able to move away from our border and go deep into their country and carry out their political and military struggle.

[Soriano] Did you not say that the $100 million involves Honduras even more in the conflict?

[Montoya] My words were: It can gradually involve us. We will do all we can to prevent this.

[Soriano] How does the Assembly feel about the U.S. Congress debates on this aid for the Army currently in our country?

[Montoya] That is a problem of U.S. policy.

[Soriano] Does it affect us?

[Montoya] Yes, of course it affects us in one way or another; however, this is a U.S. domestic matter. I think if Nicaragua does not resolve its domestic problems in accordance with the agreements it made with the OAS, the armed confrontation in Nicaragua is unstoppable.

[Soriano] What do you think about President Ortega's statement about that Honduran area being a no-man's-land and the fact that this was ratified at The Hague?

[Montoya] He is saying this only to justify his Army's incursion into Honduras. We do not accept this. Our borders are defined. The land is Honduran, and when foreign troops cross into it we must defend our sovereignty.

[Soriano] Do you think we can call the United States our ally when we are not economically or militarily equal?

[Montoya] Alliances can be formed despite this. I can tell you something that is very important. I believe that the world is changing, and I believe that U.S. foreign policy was proven positive in Haiti, the Philippines, Brazil, and Argentina. I also think it was positive in (?Chile). I believe they are not mistaken when they express their concern, as we do, because of the hegemonic presence of the USSR in Nicaragua. Nicaragua has an Army made up of more than 350,000 men, and it has modern equipment. Managua is closer to Washington than Los Angeles. A Soviet base in the heart of the American continent represents an aggression.

NICARAGUAN REFUGEES ARRIVE IN GRACIAS A DIOS

PA110409 Tegucigalpa La Voz Evangelica de Honduras in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Reports from Auca, Gracias a Dios Department, indicate that thousands of Miskitos from the northern zone of Zelaya Department, Nicaragua, are arriving in Auca and Tapanlaya, Miskito communities in Gracias a Dios Department, on the Atlantic coast of Honduras. According to them they are coming to Honduras fleeing the Sandinists' attacks on their villages along Coco River, Nueva Segovia Department.

The refugees, approximately 500, mostly women and children, have arrived in Auca, a Honduran community 16 km from the Nicaraguan border.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, representative in Auca reported that the refugees appear very tired after walking for 2 days. They are taken care of with rice, beans, medicine, and other vital needs, such as water and housing, it was reported.

There are currently 22,000 Nicaraguan Miskito refugees from the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua in Gracias a Dios Department, in addition to the 35,000 mestizos in refugees camps in El Paraiso Department, in the eastern part of Honduras. Added to the 17,000 Salvadoran refugees in the western part of the country, Honduras has approximately 80,000 refugees of Nicaraguan and Salvadoran nationality.

NICARAGUA

PRESIDENT ORTEGA ISSUES MESSAGE ON CONTADORA

PA121336 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1232 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Message by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra from the Presidency's Directorate of Press and Information in Managua -- live]

[Text] We all know that on 7 April in Panama the Contadora and Lima Groups issued a communique addressing the Central American governments, stating very precise points about negotiations on the Contadora Document. These were the pending points to achieve the completion of the agreement.

The Nicaraguan Government, through our Foreign Minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto, adopted at this Panama meeting a firm and very clear position, which was also flexible and was explained to the Contadora and Lima Groups. After learning of the proposal of the Contadora and Lima Groups, we have been analyzing it.

Early today I contacted President Alan Garcia, who is visiting Uruguay, because last night we received a message signed by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay and President Alan Garcia Perez of Peru. Since we already had a response for the Contadora communique at that time, we sought to contact Presidents Sanguinetti and Garcia. It was between midnight and the early morning hours when we contacted President Garcia at the Montevido airport to tell him that Nicaragua was going to announce its position this morning. We also told him that our position is within the framework of the document the letter, which we received from President Sanguinetti and President Garcia.

Among other things, this letter states:

We have confirmed that the recent meeting of foreign ministers of Central America, the Contadora Group, and the Support Group was close to the possibility of reaching an agreement that would permit the culmination of the negotiating process for the text of the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America on a specific date, 6 June of this year, under the clear understanding that the signing and implementation of that document would be subject -- free of any pressure -- to certain conditions that guarantee that the security of each and every country of the area not be threatened.

We do not give up our conviction that there is no other alternative for a [word indistinct] and lasting peace than diplomatic negotiation. For this reason, we resort to your high Latin American spirit so that your [word indistinct] government accept the invitation in the recent Panama communique issued by the Contadora and Support Groups.

In another part of the letter they continued: [Words indistinct] reiterate our vigorous rejection of any foreign interference, threat, or use of force in that region, and we issue a strong call to countries with ties and interests there so that applying the principle of simultaneity [principio de simultaneidad], to observe the bases and carry out the actions mentioned in the Caraballeda message and abstain from taking any action that may foil the objective established, particularly the support for irregular forces and insurrectional movements operating in the region.

I have cited, literally, the parts we think are the most substantial in the message we received yesterday from Presidents Sanguinetti and Garcia. I informed President Garcia about the contents of Nicaragua's response in which our positions continue to be firm regarding the defense of Nicaragua's sovereignty and self-determination, but at the same time we are flexible for the benefit of peace.

Here is our communique:

Regarding the declaration that the Contadora and Support Group foreign ministers issued in Panama on 7 April requesting a deadline of no more than 8 days to learn the stand of the Central American states, the Nicaraguan Government wants to state the following:

1. For the past 4 years our country has been a victim of U.S. aggression. To date, the government of President Reagan, defying international law and the condemnation of the world's governments and peoples, continues to be determined to increase the aggression against our people that has already claimed thousands of dead and wounded and cost billions of dollars in economic losses and in the destruction of our productive installations.

2. Nicaragua was the first and only Central American country to fully approve the Contadora document of 1984 which was rejected and openly sabotaged by the U.S. Government.

3. The modified Contadora Document, which appeared as a result of the difficulties created by the United States, contains points that are unacceptable as they seriously harm the country's sovereignty and security.

4. The Nicaraguan Government supports the affirmation contained in the 7 April declaration that the process of diplomatic negotiation, sponsored by the Contadora Group, is the viable means to reach a political understanding that would permit peace and cooperation in Central America, although this action should not and cannot be linked with a Nicaraguan literal acceptance of the proposal of the modified Contadora Document.

5. The Nicaraguan Government confirms its support for and notes the validity of the Carabelleda message of the Contadora and Support Groups on 12 January 1986, and ratified by the Central American countries a few days later in Guatemala and later in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

6. The Nicaraguan Government accepts the invitation addressed to the five Central American governments to immediately resume negotiations on the only two pending aspects in the Contadora Document concerning the control and reduction of weapons and military maneuvers.

7. Nicaragua agrees to sign this document on 6 June, so long as the U.S. aggression against Nicargua has completely ended by that date and so long as an agreement is reached on the points pending in the modified document; all of this within the framework of the simultaneity concept explicitly mentioned in the Caraballeda message.

8. Nicaragua is a country attacked by the most powerful imperialist power on the earth. No nation, under those circumstances, would agree to become unarmed. Therefore, if the U.S. aggression does not end, Nicaragua declares that under no circumstance it will agree to disarm in the face of the United States because it would be a betrayal of our people which the Sandinist revolution will never commit.

9. Nicaragua accepts and fully supports the proposals contained in the 7 April decleration, which stated that to achieve peace in the region it is essential that any intervention of one state in the domestic affairs of another end because it is incompatible with the principles and norms of the UN Charter and the OAS, and it is a flagrant violation of international law.

10. Nicaragua ratifies its willingness to immediately form a civilian commission with Costa Rica to investigate and inspect border incidents between the two countries and expressed appreciation for the willingness stated by the contadora and Support Groups in Panama to conduct a general inspection of the common border between the two states, in April 1986, to establish the needs of the civilian commission so that the commission can be established soon.

11. Nicaragua is willing to immediately form a similar commission with Honduras in which the Contadora and Support Groups will have equal participation.

12. Nicaragua ratifies its decision to resume, as soon as possible, the bilateral talks with the United States that contribute to seeking stability and peace in Central America.

13. Nicaragua, a Latin American country that is a victim of the brutal and unjustifiable aggression of the U.S. Government, urges the governments of the Contadora and Support Groups to act in line with this reality.

The people and Government of Nicaragua, which are facing the terrorist escalation of the U.S. Government today, are certain that the solidarity of the heroic peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, together with the solidarity of all the peoples of the world, including that of the U.S. people, will help us defeat the aggression to achieve peace.

Thank you.

ORTEGA REITERATES VOW TO CONTINUE DEFENSE

PA131403 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1312 GMT 13 Apr 86

[By Agustin Fuentes]

[Text] Santo Domingo, Chontales, Nicaragua, 12 Apr (REUTER) -- In an open air speech, delivered today in a small square beside the local church, while the silhouettes of Sandinist soldiers could be seen in the hills surrounding this city, located 200 km east of Managua, President Daniel Ortega told some 500 farmers that "so long as the aggression supported by the United States continues, there will be no arms reduction in Nicaragua."

"We have said that we will sign the Contadora peace document when the aggression ends," he added, "but so long as it continues, we will continue fighting. We will continue to bear arms, and we will continue to send arms to those who do not yet have them, so that all Nicaraguans will be able to defend their land, their lives, and the lives of their children, and so that they can face up to and defeat a U.S. invasion.

As Ortega was speaking under an exhausting tropical sun, two Soviet-made M-24 helicopters circled low over the tops of the steep hills. There was good reason for this, according to Ortega himself, since the contras, as the rebels who are trying to unseat the Nicaraguan Government with U.S. help are called, attacked this town in November.

"On that occasion," Ortega said, "they were unable to enter. They were repelled by the militia and later pursued by the Army, and they suffered considerable losses."

Ortega arrived here guarded by soldiers in several "jeeps" that traveled in front and behind the Japanese-made station wagon that he drove himself on a mostly macadam highway with numerous curves and slopes through the hilly territory. Army officers have reported that in the northern part of this same Chontales Department, the Sandinist Army is fighting the contras, using several "unconventional warfare battalions," and the first two light infantry and counterinsurgency battalions.

Questioned by reporters after the ceremony, as he was making his way among children who approached to shake his hand, Ortega said of the voting that is to take place on Tuesday in the U.S. House of Representatives: "With or without the $100 million, the aggression will continue. We are sure of it because Reagan, as U.S. politicians themselves have stated, is determined to attack Nicaragua. He is possessed by the obsession to destroy us."

"If the $100 million is approved," Ortega continues, "the contras will have more money to steal, but this will not save them from defeat, and when we have defeated them Reagan will send the Yankee Marines. That is why we are prepared to defend ourselves."

ORTEGA VIEWS ROLE OF RELIGION, DIALOGUE

PA120305 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Apr 86 p 5

[Text] President Daniel Ortega yesterday told more than 700 persons who are participating in the Fourth Retreat of Interdenominational Representatives of Evangelical Pastors (RIPEN), that the Sandinist revolution has noticed that as a result of its victory, there is a confrontation between those who want to turn religion into an opiate for the people and those who want to defend it as a factor for liberty.

The various evangelical denominations comprised in the Evangelical Committee for Development (CEPAD) are meeting at the La Boquita Tourist Center. They have the task of analyzing how to best safeguard the unity of the church from a social point of view, so that it may continue to be a factor of liberty in spite of the efforts of those who want to destroy the Sandinist revolution.

In analyzing why the Reagan government wants to destroy the revolution, Ortega said that this is a communications problem with historic roots, a problem of communication between the various U.S. administrations and the [Latin American] people, a fact that either dismisses or reduces any possibility of an effective dialogue between the United States and Latin America.

He stated: "This explains why the United States wants to destroy us. It functions with a basis on the premise that if you are not with them, then you are against them. It cannot imagine a policy of nonalignment. It is concerned over the fact that a revolutionary process is being consolidated in Nicaragua where there are already visible signs of respect for religion, of the participation of Christians in the moral transformation taking place in the country, of a mixed economy, of political pluralism, and of a transformation plan that represents an example of independence and dignity coming from a small country which is under attack, an example for the other Latin American nations."

Daniel Ortega noted that according to the Reagan government, Nicaragua has become a bad example for Latin America because even the Latin American governments will have to wonder how a country such as ours continues to resist. What couldn't the big Latin American countries do that have big resources? If Nicaragua can resist, how strongly and firmly would the developed Latin American countries be able to resist? Ortega wondered. [paragraph as published]

The Nicaraguan president also asked: What would happen if Latin America unites to form a great front to force the United States to change its attitude? There would be a multiplication of forces, and Reagan could no longer subject the Latin American people.

Ortega reaffirmed the revolutionary government's disposition to talk with the top chief of the counterrevolutionaries (Reagan), and noted that there is no way that a correspondence can be found between a Sandinist government-contra dialogue and a dialogue between the Salvadoran regime and the Salvadoran guerrillas, because the former is a case of a war promoted from abroad; the latter is the case of the rising of an entire nation against social injustices.

Daniel Ortega stated: "Nicaragua's outlook for peace is still painful. When cause is just and truthful, when it benefits the people, and when it is loaded with love, it suffers persecution and leads to martyrdom. History contains many examples of this, one of them is that of Christianity, which was not the work of a few days, was not applauded by everybody, and which suffered international isolation, persecution, torture, and death."

RELEASED EPS SOLDIERS RETURN FROM HONDURAS

PA120414 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0205 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Dear listeners of the Voice of Nicaragua, five fighters of the EPS, who were turned over by the Honduran Red Cross today, arrived in the country via the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport a few minutes ago.

The EPS fighters entered Honduran territory during clashes at the border area with mercenary forces. One of them was wounded and was immediately transferred to a hospital.

They were met by Guerrilla and Brigade Commander Hugo Torres, and by Commander (?Ene Blank). Here is part of the press conference offered by Commander Hugo Torres, and the statements made by the fighters upon arriving at the Sandino Airport. Let's listen.

[Begin recording in process] [Torres] ...Comrades who have just arrived in the country, six comrades who have arrived from (?Honduran) territory [words indistinct] (?Present here is) our comrade ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, our Comrade Abud. We are very happy to welcome back our comrade EPS member who participated in the EPS operations during the past few weeks and days against the mercenary forces. They were captured in Honduran territory, at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, as a result of the persecution we have launched against the mercenary forces. They are present here, and you will have an opportunity to ask them some questions. We interpret their prompt return to our country as a goodwill gesture by the Honduran Government, which further encourages us to continue trying to improve our relations with that nation. It is indeed a permanent necessity to preserve peace and to maintain the best relations and utmost stability between the peoples and governments of both countries. The comrades will now answer your questions.

[Unidentified reporter] Could one of you tell us how you entered Honduran territory?

[First unidentified soldier] Well, as Commander Torres said, we were basically participating in fighting, in other words, in operations against the FDN at the border area. As you know, during a battle one must definitely fight against the enemy attacking our peasants. At a given time, we were captured by the Honduran Army at the border area, at the borderline. That is how we were captured.

[Reporter] How were you treated by the Honduran Army while in Honduran territory?

[Soldier] We were captured at the borderline, in the border area. We were treated well at all times, at least I was, and I believe my comrades, too. Right? [Several fighters reply yes]

[Second Identified soldier] Yes, they treated us very well, they were very kind to us. Those of us who were wounded received medical attention. They took good care of us. [end recording]

These were some of the statements made by the fighters who have just arrived and who are now on the northern road heading toward the military hospital for a medical checkup, according to Commander Torres.

Ambassador Abud Vivas said that the comrades were exchanged for Honduran fishermen who were caught fishing in Nicaraguan jurisdictional waters.

Abud on Improving Ties

PA121614 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Today, with the exchange of prisoners, Honduras and Nicaragua improved their diplomatic relations. Tonight Nicaraguan Ambassador to Honduras Danilo Abud Vivas said that today Nicaragua had responded in kind to the Honduran release of six members of the Sandinist People's Army. Nicaragua had turned over 12 Honduran fishermen and a shrimpboat to Honduran authorities. He also announced that Nicaragua is studying the possibility of letting Honduran boats fish in Nicaraguan waters without any problems.

[Begin Abud recording] In the current Honduran Government presided by Jose Azcona, and in the Honduran Armed Forces, there is a political atmosphere, or political commitment to seek ways to improve...[changes thought] first of all, to eliminate the causes of friction to achieve detente and normalize bilateral relations. This is the most important thing. This has been a very positive gesture from Honduras. Nicaragua also made a very positive gesture. Today the Honduran Embassy here in Managua was informed that we were going to turn over a Honduran boat captured on 4 April in Nicaragua's jurisdictional waters, together with all 12 members of the Honduran crew. The constant incursion by Honduran boats into Nicaraguan waters to fish illegally is another element of friction in the relations. We are also on the way to solving that problem, as was recently announced during the visit by Honduras' economy and commerce secretary. At that time there was talk of seeking an agreement to allow Honduran boats to fish in Nicaraguan waters, so as to elimenate another element of tension. I wanted to report this to you and to thank you for coming to this press conference. [end recording]

OBANDO Y BRAVO MEETS URUGUAYAN LEGISLATORS

PA110451 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] The delegation of the Uruguayan parliamentarians presided over by National Party Senator Alberto Sumaran, vice president of the Latin American Parliament, met this morning with Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo, president of the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua. The Uruguayan congressment, among them Jose German Araujo, from the Broad Front, and Deputies Juan Justo Amaru, from the Colorado Party, and Julio E. Daverede from the Civic Union, met for more than 1 hour behind closed doors with the high prelate from the Catholic Church.

Senator Criticizes Cardinal

PA130010 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] A massive mobilization on the Uruguayan people and of the various political forces in that South American nation is being organized in the next few days by the Broad Front and the National Convention of Workers in solidarity with the Sandinist people's revolution.

This mobilization will bring together almost half a million Uruguayans, who will reiterate their solidarity with Nicaragua and their repudiation of the Reagan administration and the U.S. Congress for their boldness in granting more financial aid to the counterrevolutionary groups attacking the revolutionary process.

Uruguayan Broad Front Senator Jose German Araujo departed the country after a 6-day visit together with other Uruguayan parliamentarians. Regarding his meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, president of the Episcopal Conference, Senator Jose German Araujo said that Obando y Bravo showed an antipatriotic attitude, just like other members of political parties, with whom, in his opinion, the FSLN cannot hold any talks.

USSR'S ARKHIPOV RECEIVES AWARD, SICNS AGREEMENTS

Castro Bestows Medal

FL110125 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has bestowed the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Order on Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers and chairman of the Cuban-Soviet Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, which had been meeting since 7 April.

[Begin recording of Arkhipov remarks read in Spanish by unidentified man] Dear Comrade Fidel Castro, I do not have enough words to express my profound feelings caused by the highest [word indistinct] the CPSU has given me for strengthening the deep sisterhood between Cuba and the Soviet Union. [end recording]

With great emotion, Arkhipov said he has to give his heart and soul to the development of the Cuban people's life and said: Communist Arkhipov will always be yours, until the last day of his life. After the beautiful moment in which Arkhipov's more than 60 years of work toward development of socialism were honored, four important documents were signed. They are the inter-governmental credit agreement for the 5-year period 1986-90, trade exchange, the final protocol of this 5-year period planning coordination, and the final protocol of the 16th session of the Cuban-Soviet Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation. It should be noted that these documents are very important for our future development because, compared to others, these include larger volumes of trade and investments. The documents were signed by Ivan Arkhipov and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

5-Year Cooperation Pacts

FL111230 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Cuba and the USSR have signed four important documents, including one on inter-governmental credit in which the Soviet Government grants the Cuban Government credits amounting to more than 50 percent of those assigned during the past 5-year plan for the investment development scheme of the country during the period 1986-1990 through economic and technical cooperation. The process of coordinating plans for this 5-year period, the trade agreement for this same period, and the final protocol of the session are the other documents that were signed by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Ivan Arkhipov, who was seen off by Fidel at Jose Marti International Airport when he completed his visit to Cuba.

GRANMA on Agreements

FL111740 Bridgetown CANA in English 1725 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Havana, April 11, CANA-REUTER -- Cuba and the Soviet Union have signed a series of trade agreements which will substantially increase Soviet aid to this Caribbean island over the next five years, the official daily GRANMA reported today. The four trade and economic cooperation agreements were signed yesterday in Havana by Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov and Cuban Vice-President With Responsibility for Foreign Affairs Carlos Rafael Rodriguez at the end of four days of negotiations, it added.

Rodriguez told the state-run Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA that together they provide for 2.5 billion roubles (three billion dollars) of new Soviet credits to Cuba between 1986 and 1990. GRANMA aid this represented a 50 per cent increase in Soviet credit to Cuba over the last five-year period.

The Soviet Union accounts for two-thirds of Cuba's external trade and provides the country with a massive flow of economic aid, estimated by Western diplomats at about one billion dollars per year.

GRANMA said the latest agreements provide for Soviet aid in several areas of the economy, including electricity generation, petroleum, machinery construction, the electrical, chemical, metallurgical, and pharmaceutical industries, sugar, transport, and agriculture.

REAGAN AID DEMAND FOR NICARAGUAN CONTRAS VIEWED

PA111504 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Norberto Hernandez commentary]

[Text] Characteristically, as the date on which Congress must give a final vote on aid for the anti-Sandinist groups approaches, the U.S. President refuses to give up. At an American Newspaper Publishers Association meeting, for the second time in a single day the President insistently demanded the $100 million to prevent -- according to his statements -- a counterrevolutionary defeat, and to force the Managua regime to negotiate with those groups. During his frenzied speech, Reagan blamed Nicaragua for the Contadora Group's failure to achieve a regional peace agreement. As everyone knows, Nicaragua is not the country that has constantly sabotaged the negotiations promoted by Contadora. The United States, with its fierce interventionism, gives Nicaragua's aggressors economic and material aid and exerts pressure to thwart any attempt to attain peace.

We must bear in mind that while the United States demands that the Sandinist government practically dismantle its Army and remain unarmed despite the aggression, the White House plans to give the mercenary groups -- in addition to what they have already received -- Stinger-type surface-to-air missiles, one of the most modern missiles currently manufactured. Apart from congressional approval, the entire world, especially Latin America, rejects this phase of U.S. policy, which describes aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries as a matter of national security.

Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, who recently returned from a tour of several Latin American countries, has said that the officials he spoke to shared his concern over an eventual U.S. intervention in Central America. Meanwhile, Michael Barnes, chairman of the House of Representatives subcommittee on Hemispheric Affairs, said that when he was in Panama, where the latest Contadora Group meeting took place, he did not detect support for U.S. aid to the contras. He added that Latin American officials without exception believe White House policies undermine the Contadora process.

The only resource left to the U.S. President is to continue using lies to achieve congressional support, and even so his policies are a failure.

'Our America' Commentary

PA131628 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] If one recalls that influential publications such as THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, and others have evidently been against the White House's policy in Central America, it is clear why President Ronald Reagan spoke on Wednesday to a meeting of the American Newspaper Publishers Association.

As in the best days of his wild campaign to try to win the House of Representatives' support, and because the new vote is immiment, the President again let loose his barrage of verbiage against the Nicaraguan Government, and despite his care not to repeat the ideas that caused him to be crushed in March, he made foolish remarks right and left and again had recourse to the old formula of national security.

We had said previously that if the U.S. President enters history, he shall so so as the biggest liar of all those who have occupied the White House, but we are now in a position to affirm that he should also be characterized as the most ridiculous.

In his sick zeal to obtain the controversial $100 million for the unconventional forces attacking Nicaragua, President Reagan accused the Managua government of being involved in drug trafficking and of committing, in his words, perverse anti-Semitic acts. This was too much for the U.S. press, which quickly reacted to these irresponsible statements with harsh criticism. This criticism was reaffirmed by a New York rabbi who investigated the charges of anti-Semitism in Nicaragua and publicly contradicted the President. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency did the same, refuting with proof what the U.S. President had said.

On this occasion, the President's verbal attacks were directed at the USSR, Cuba, and the Nicaraguan Government, which he called a communist enclave in Central America. With these and other arguments, Reagan invited the House of Representatives to reconsider its attitude toward the aid he is seeking for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution and added shamelessly that he is trying to show the Managua government that it cannot eliminate its opponents and that it has to negotiate with them.

One can truthfully say that up to now no government or congress in the world had officially discussed a policy of aggression against a foreign country as the present U.S. Administration is doing, let alone having done so with the explicit objective of overthrowing legally elected authorities. Anyway, it is clear that the U.S. Government, specifically the President, is carefully adhering to the strategy outlined by his advisers, which consists of pressuring legislators to vote in favor of the aid, verbally attacking Nicaragua, and creating foci of tension, like Libya, to feed the superpatriotism of the U.S. people.

COMMENT ON U.S. 'MANEUVERS' AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA100433 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Norberto Hernandez commentary]

[Text] One thing about which the U.S. Government cannot be criticized when discussing its current campaign of aggressions against Nicaragua, is lack of neatness. The current U.S. Administration, with its President at the head, prepares and carries out all possible maneuvers -- some of which are done openly and others somewhat covertly, carefully. The sole objective is to overthrow the Sandinist authorities.

In addition to the uncommonly large propaganda campaign and pressure to secure military aid for the counterrevolutionaries, there is internal sabotage, an economic blockade, border provocations, plans to murder Nicaraguan leaders, and other plans that are implacably implemented against the small but firm Central American nation.

The CIA has played the role of adviser and direct executioner in this dirty deal, but sometimes zeal is not enough, and then the notorious CIA is uncovered. This is what happened with a recent plan aimed at creating evidence about an alleged Nicaraguan intervention in support of the Salvadoran guerrillas. In providing this information, the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry said that the plan had the support of smugglers who operate in the Gulf of Fonseca, which Nicaragua shares with El Salvador and Honduras.

The Nicaraguan contra network -- main tool of the CIA plan -- was trying to promote the desertion of Patriotic Military Service young people with their rifles for which they were being paid $100. The plan calls for transferring those arms to alleged Salvadoran guerrilla supply points where the Salvadoran Army was to pretend to have found them in order to make accusations against Nicaragua before the U.S. Congress. The young deserters were to be trained at counterrevolutionary bases in the island of Meanguera, where there are North Americans who claim to be UN advisers. The Nicaraguan authorities secure this information while interrogating members of a counterrevolutionary band who were arrested. All that remains to be said is that in spite of the care that the U.S. Government puts on some its plans, truth eventually comes through.

AREA LEADERS 'AGAINST' REAGAN POLICY ON CONTRAS

PA121458 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Administration cannot afford incidents, especially if these incidents occur within its diplomatic corps and only a few days before the final vote is to be cast on aid to the contras. However, the tactlessness of some ambassadors places U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his government in a difficult spot. Recently several U.S. officials said that a majority of Latin American leaders expressed in private their support for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution and the plan proposed by the White House. However, for political reasons they could not say this in public.

The U.S. delegation headed by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill was able to see that the Latin American leaders, without exception, are against the White House's Central American policy. The democratic leader brought this up. Up to this point, no greater problems were created except for the public surprise of learning that the U.S. plans for Nicaragua, instead of being praised, are being rejected by the majorities.

The situation turned into a problem when THE WASHINGTON POST published a letter sent by Frank Ortiz, U.S. ambassador to Argentina, strongly criticizing O'Neill and other members of the U.S. delegation. THE WASHINGTON POST states that Ortiz complained in his letter that Nicaragua was the only topic discussed during the talks. When the letter was made public, Thomas O'Neill said that from the very moment the U.S. delegation arrived in Argentina, Ortiz has been openly rude and constantly interrupted the talks with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. Thomas O'Neill said: Our ambassador to Argentina broke every law.

Frank Ortiz, U.S. ambassador to Argentina, who so strongly defends the interests of his President, is an old CIA agent whose long service record includes certain things that a person with just a little bit of decency would try to hide. He was born in New Mexico, land taken from Mexico by the United States.

In 1969 Ortiz participated in the destabilization campaign unleashed against Peruvian President Juan Velasco Alvarado. In 1970 he went to Uruguay where he worked as U.S. Embassy adviser. The well-known CIA agent, (?Danny Triones), was also an adviser in Uruguay at that time. We must also add that in Uruguay, Ortiz was closely involved in coordinating the repression against those who opposed the military regime. After holding the position of U.S. ambassador to Guatemala, Frank Ortiz returned to Peru in 1981 as ambassador. Several political sectors accused him of encouraging a coup d'etat. With this kind of a background, it is not surprising that the U.S. ambassador in Argentina should meddle in the official talks of the president and defend a plan that is repudiated by all of Latin America.

U.S. WANTS 'PINOCHET REGIME WITHOUT PINOCHET'

PA111910 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary, read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] If the U.S. President has given repeated demonstrations of blind obstinancy, one could say that his most representative emulator is dictator Augusto Pinochet. The events in the past 3 years in Chile have provided sufficient proof that the explosive social situation does not have any other solution but an urgent change in government. This vital aspect does not go unnoticed by either the regime or its main supporter -- the U.S. Government.

The repeated popular demonstrations and the attacks in addition to the unemployment and the increasingly more chaotic economic situation have worsened the governmental crisis. However, contrary to all logic, they have awakened in the chief of the regime uncontrolled desires to remain in power until 1989 and even longer.

In addition to the angry popular reaction to those absurd plans, Pinochet is currently facing the criticism of his old comrades in arms such as retired General Roberto Vio, who demanded the resignation of the dictator for the good of Chile. Another retired general and former junta member, Gustavo Leigh, recently said that he is against all dictatorships and did not conceal his happiness over the falls of Jean-Claude Duvalier and Ferdinand Marcos. This is where the topic about which there is constant talk in various media, inside and outside Chile, emerges. It is a topic that has more than sufficient grounds to back it up, especially when one notes the U.S. position of attacking the Pinochet regime even in the most renowned international forums.

It could be said that the collapse of the Duvalier dynasty and the deterioration of the power of the Philippine president have a common origin that is not unlike the situation that currently exists in Chile. At the same time, there is another similar element. In both the Haitian and the Philippine processes, the United States played a destabilizing role that was the culmination of a series of diplomatic and political pressures. The similarity is valid.

Recently the United States has again implemented the old chameleon tactic, that of using camouflage to attack those it formerly protected when their excessively harsh policy endangers the positions it previously achieved. The unexpected U.S. attack on the Chilean regime in the United Nations with regard to human rights has been the strongest to date. As we have said, it increases the possibility that the U.S. Government will intensify its plans to try to impose a Pinochet regime without Pinochet. This has been denounced by several Chilean political leaders.

Meanwhile, the opposition in Chile has announced that 1986 will be a year of struggle, unity, and victory. The preparations for the upcoming popular struggles worry the U.S. Government. However, confirming his intransigence, Pinochet amends the Constitution without realizing that his puppet strings are about to be cut.

GRANMA SEES AREA DEBT AS OPPRESSIVE 'PINCER'

PA121318 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 86

["What the Press Has to Say" feature by (Marta Mercier) and Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] ECLA has recently revealed that in the last 4 years the continent has paid, just in interest alone, on its foreign debt the astronomical sum of $100 billion. This is the opening paragraph of a recent commentary in the newspaper GRANMA, the organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. "Pincers on Latin America" is the title of the article that later explains that the funds transferred during that period, still as interest, primarily to banks in the United States, would be sufficient to build 25,000 schools for about 40 million Latin American children from 6 to 16 years old who do not know how to read or write. GRANMA goes on to say that the amortization and interest paid since 1960, when the Latin American foreign debt was about $6 billion, is almost equivalent to the present continent's debt of close to $400 billion.

The calculations by international organizations, including ECLA, suggest that if present conditions continue -- unequal trade, high interest rates, and neo-colonialist exploitation, among others -- by 1995 the Latin American foreign debt will be some $670 billion, which is four times the continent's foreign debt of 10 years ago and almost twice the present debt.

Continuing on the subject of interest rates, the Cuban newspaper GRANMA explains that interest rates have increased as much as 20 percent; this has had a serious effect on the indebtedness of Latin America, which at present is experiencing one of the most serious crises in the history of its economic development. GRANMA says the Latin American foreign debt has negative implications not only for the areas's economy and social and economic development, but also has a negative effect on its natural resources. In this regard, the Cuban newspaper cites the Colombian Institute of Renewable and Environmental Resources, which said at the end of last year that to pay their creditors, the debtor countries have to use large amounts of foreign exchange and sacrifice their natural resources.

GRANMA goes on to say that the Caracas Declaration, issued at the 11th SELA meeting, states that the region's foreign debt has become one of the most serious obstacles to the development of Latin America; that the high cost of servicing it and the loss of access to international capital markets have transformed Latin America and the Caribbean into an exporting region deprived of financial resources. In October 1985, GRANMA says, the Montevideo Declaration approved by the Latin American Parliament stated that under the conditions imposed by the creditors, the region's foreign debt was unpayable, that it was mainly a political problem, and that the unity of the Latin America countries is an essential requirement for solving the debt problem.

To conclude, GRANMA says that the foreign debt of Latin America and the Caribbean is, indeed, the economic problem at the core of the crisis that the continent is experiencing, and that because it constitutes a pincer in the heart of the region, it provokes ample and heated discussions among businessmen, public employees, experts, and economists. The topic of the discussions is how to eliminate the pincer that is oppressing the Latin American peoples, GRANMA says.

'OUR AMERICA' COMMENTARY ON FOREIGN DEBT CRISIS

PA111721 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The increasing wave of strikes, dismissals, and demonstrations on the Latin American continent are proof of the tensions that exist between the working masses and governments. This situation has its origins in the harsh economic and social crisis in the region caused mainly by the foreign debt, which is growing at a bewildering rate. Of the $950 billion debt accrued by the underdeveloped countries, $370 billion is owed by Latin America. This reality has resulted in the implementation of economic measures with which leaders try desperately to solve the problem. Despite this, the destabilizing threat posed by the debt and the terrible pressure to pay the interest, places democratic governments in difficult situations, as in the case of the Argentine Government which since coming to power has had to face five national strikes, while a sixth strike has been scheduled to begin within a short time.

Upon rejecting the economic measures adopted by President Raul Alfonsin, the General Confederation of Labor [CGT] was particularly harsh in its criticisms when it stated in a communique that this is the second phase of the recessive aggression on the people's economy, because the government wants no other agreement than the one it has with the international usurers. Shortly before the recent fifth strike, the Argentine CGT proclaimed that strikes are the only alternative because we are dying of hunger. The reiterated demand for salary increases, and the moratorium on the payment of the Argentine foreign debt which is $50 billion, preceded the strike in March, during which the workers also requested an end to mass dismissals and closure of firms and factories. The increasing unemployment of Argentine workers is the result of the drastic anti-inflationary program called Southern Plan [Austral Plan] implemented in June by President Alfonsin's government, which is determined to control the crisis at all costs.

In the midst of the tense warlike atmosphere, the labor leaders recalled that prior to the implementation of the Southern Plan the government said it would guarantee freedom of work; therefore, the labor sector's claims were basically addressed to the economic adjustment program. As I said at the beginning of this commentary, labor unrest affects the entire region and in this regard Peru, Brazil, and Uruguay are facing strikes in which tens of thousands of workers are participating. The demands of the Argentine workers are valid for all of Latin America's working classes, who are willing to wage a battle against payment of the foreign debt that has caused the extreme poverty of 150 million people on the continent.

SEAMEN SPONSOR NICARAGUAN SCHOOLS, DELIVER GOODS

FL120111 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Cuban ships are constantly arriving at Corinto Port, on the Pacific side of Nicaragua, carrying goods which are necessary for development of that Central American sister republic. One of the most beautiful activities carried out by our seamen is the sponsoring of this township's schools. Corinto has a population of little over 17,000. One of these centers is San Martin primary school which has 230 students.

The Cuban crew of the Baracoa ship have painted, repaired and rebuilt different areas of this school including the installation of power lines. They have also delivered books, notebooks, erasers, pencils, and other school supplies for that school's students. Because of its small size, the school has two class sessions and adult education is provided during the evening. The Navegacion Caribe Enterprise's ships which arrive in Corinto Port provide similar services to other schools they sponsor.

RISQUET PRAISES ANGOLAN TIES, MEETS DOS SANTOS

FL101718 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Interview with Politburo member Jorge Risquet in Luanda, Angola, by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Pedro Martinez Pirez; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] At the conclusion of the tenth meeting of the bilateral commission on general Angolan-Cuban cooperation, we interviewed Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba. The Cuban leader praised the results of the commission sessions which were held in Luanda and Cabinda.

[Begin recording] At the sessions of the tenth meeting, we have encountered a common language, discussed in detail, and taken the necessary measures to expand cooperation and make it more efficient in all economic, political, and social areas, where necessary, as well as in the defense area, since the racist imperialists are escalating aggression against all the peoples of the southern cone and especially against Angola, as demonstrated by the shameless reception of the traitor Savimbi as a, quote, hero, unquote, by Mr Reagan and other U.S. dignitaries. He supposedly received direct Yankee imperialist aid for the counterrevolutionary bands, which is in addition to the aid that the United States was already providing covertly and through the South African racist. In view of this escalation and new dangers, we agreed to reinforce our cooperation and we are sure that in the event of any new attempt, any new escalation is condemned to failure. [end recording]

During his visit to Angola, Risquet met twice with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos who was presented with a verbal message from Cuba's highest leader, Fidel Castro.

In reference to South Africa, Risquet said:

[Begin recording] The Angolan people will triumph. We will achieve security for Angola, independence for Namibia, equality for the multi-racial people of South Africa, abolition of apartheid, and peace for the nations of southern Africa. [end recording]

AGUIRRE ADDRESSES IPU MEETING IN MEXICO

FL120227 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0206 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Today Cuba urged IPU members to firmly support those who oppose open and covert armed intervention against Nicaragua and to condemn U.S. aggression against the powerful Libyan people. Severo Aguirre, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government and head of the Cuban delegation to the 75th IPU conference, scored the United States for persisting in its erratic path of vicious arms race. The Cuban representative asked why, if it was acknowledged in Geneva that a nuclear war would not have winners or losers, arms race continues to be increased as well as the "star wars" project. Speaking at the parliamentary conference being held in Mexico City, Severo Aguirre compared the U.S. warmongering line with USSR's peace policy.

BAHAMAS

TALKS WITH CUBA ON BILATERAL RELATIONS CONCLUDE

FL111522 Bridgetown CANA in English 1500 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, April 11, CANA -- The Governments of Cuba and the Bahamas have concluded two days of talks which it is hoped will lead to better relations between the two countries. The 12-member Cuban delegation, led by Foreign Affairs Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, met here with Foreign Affairs Minister Clement Maynard and officials from the Ministries of Foreign and Economic Affairs.

An official statement issued following the meetings said the two delegations discussed matters of mutual interest, including delimitation of maritime boundaries between the two countries, fisheries matters, sporting and cultural matters, and the importance of establishing contact at the official level as a means of minimising confrontation and misunderstanding between the Bahamas and Cuba, and avoidance of armed attack and incidents such as the case of HMBS Flamingo (which was sunk by Cuban fighter planes).

The Cuban Government was also said to have given its assurance of full cooperation in combatting international drug trafficking and terrorism. Both countries agreed they will continue to maintain ambassadors at the non-resident level.

Relations between Cuba and the Bahamas have remained distant since Cuban President Fidel Castro assumed power in 1959. Diplomatic ties were established the year following Bahamian independence in 1973, but a non-resident ambassador to the Bahamas was not appointed until 1979.

Although Prime Minister Lynden Pindling has emphasised the need for the Bahamas to maintain good relations with all its neighbours, including Marxist Cuba, the Bahamian public has remained strongly opposed to any Cuban presence here. At the same time, efforts by the Bahamas to protect its fisheries resources have often led to the arrest of Cuban fishermen for poaching in Bahamian waters. The issue provoked an international incident in 1980 when Cuban military aircraft sank a Bahamas defence force vessel with the loss of four lives. The Cuban Government later made financial restitution to the Bahamas Government and the families of the dead marines.

A second incident occurred last December when another defence force vessel was buzzed by two Cuban MiG's as it attempted to arrest four Cuban fishing boats found within the Bahamas exclusive 12-mile fishing zone.

Pindling on Talks

FL111948 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Prime Minister the Right Honorable Sir Lynden Pindling addressed the [Progressive Liberal Party, PLP, constituency] rally at (Gambert) House last night. He discussed the FNMs [Free National Movement] as two-faced who speak out of both sides of their mouth. He also talked about the recent talks with the Cuban delegation.

[Begin recording] The other day, the deputy prime minister had some talks with a Cuban delegation that came here to our city. He thought, and all of us in the government thought, it was in the best interest of the Bahamas, protecting the interest of the Bahamas, protecting the lives and welfare of Bahamians that we should do this. We don't want to talk to the Cubans after they blow up another boat. We want to talk to them before to see if we can avoid an incident like that happening again.

Cuban fishermen still are caught in our waters on occasion and right now we have licensed a company that is drilling for oil somewhere near the boundary between the Bahamas and Cuba. We don't want a boat blown up out of the water because the Cubans say it's on the Cuban side and we up here in Nassau say: No it's on the Bahamian side. We have to protect the interests of the the Bahamas.

But, you see, the trouble is the FNM likes to play off. The FNM issued a statement that they are opposed to the Bahamas' talking to Cuba.

The firm of Bostwick and Bostwick represents the Cubans in the Bahamas. I don't know how, out of one side of the mouth the FNM can say that the Bahamas' Government should not talk with the Cuban Government, and on the other side of the mouth they take the Cuban money to represent them in the Bahamas. I can't understand them. [end recording]

In a telephone interview with Mr Bostwick this afternoon, the attorney admitted representing Cubans. He said Mr Pindling knows that he represents people of all nationalities and added that he represents PLP and FNM as well.

HAITI

GOVERNMENT TO PROSECUTE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

FL111348 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] The Haitian Government says it plans to begin legal action against 16 people charged with human rights violations and other crimes during the regime of ousted President Jean-Claude Duvalier. Among those charged is the former mayor of Port-au-Prince; several political prisoners accused the former mayor of torture and other abuses.

2 SOLDIERS ON SHOOTING SPREE DEMAND HIGHER PAY

FL121430 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Reports from Haiti say two Haitian soldiers opened fire inside their own barracks on Thursday in a protest to demand higher pay and better treatment for the Army. No injuries were reported in the incident which took place in a town about 70 miles west of Port-au-Prince. The soldiers took refuge afterwards at the home of a Roman Catholic priest and reportedly plan to seek asylum in the United States.

ST LUCIA

COMPTON CALLS ON CARICOM TO HELP HAITI

FL112236 Bridgetown CANA in English 2204 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 11, CANA -- St Lucia is seeking to mobilise members of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) to help Haiti establish a democratic system of government in the wake of the recent forced departure of the depressed island's dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier. Prime Minister John Compton says he expects the issue to be considered when the Caricom foreign ministers meet in Belize next month as well as at the heads of government meeting in July.

The first thing we have to do is to send a fact finding mission to find out what is happening in Haiti, and to see where we can help, both in political organisation and other technical assistance, Compton said. Based on the findings, Caricom should do what it can to help in restoring normalcy, he added.

Haiti is adrift now and I think we ought to do something to try and bring it into the Caribbean mainstream, he said. Government's desire to assist Haiti was first mooted in last month's throne speech to parliament.

Governor-General Sir Allen Lewis said recent events in Haiti presented an opportunity for commonwealth Caribbean governments to provide a bridge upon which that disturbed and unfortunate country can cross over into the mainstream of Caribbean affairs. Our geographic proximity, our linguistic, and cultural affinity provide compelling reasons for some initiative on the part of Caribbean governments. This opportunity to render humanitarian assistance should not be missed, he said. Compton told CANA today Haiti was adrift now and something must be done to bring it into the Caribbean mainstream.

ST MARTIN

LIBYANS INTERESTED IN BUYING NETHERLANDS PASSPORTS

FL111424 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] The Dutch Liberal Conservative Party has urged the government to put an end to the trade in Dutch passports on the island of St Martin. Canadian businessmen have set up an enterprise on the island which offers for sale Dutch alien passports at the rate of $100,000. Libyans, Iranians, and Chinese especially appear to be interested in such a passport. It is reported that the island administration fully agrees to the transaction so that the Dutch political party wonders whether the Dutch authority on the Antillean island can be maintained in his function. It is of the opinion that the passport trade is an encroachment on the Constitution, that is the Dutch Constitution, and the Dutch Government will respond at the beginning of next week.

TRINADAD-TOBAGO

UNION CRITICIZES U.S. MILITARY EXERCISES

FL091802 Bridgetown CANA in English 1544 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 9, CANA -- The left-wing Bank and General Workers Union (BGWU) has criticized forthcoming United States military exercises in the Caribbean. The United Nations has declared 1986 the Year of Peace, the Union said in a statement. Yet the Caribbean region is being converted into a zone of war and aggression by the United States aimed at enslaving the Caribbean people politically, economically, and culturally. These dangerous military exercises are designed to transform the region into a zone of war and into another U.S. military hotspot, the statement added.

The Pentagon said last Friday that more than 20,000 personnel from the U.S., Britain, Jamaica, and eastern Caribbean states will take part in the exercises. The department said that the manoeuvers will demonstrate American capability to project military power to protect its interests by supporting friendly Caribbean governments.

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FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SIGNING CONTADORA DOCUMENT

PA142002 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 14 Apr 86 p 6

[By Alvaro Galvez]

[Text] Any country that fails to sign the Contadora Document on 6 June will shoulder a burdensome historical responsibility, most of the Central American foreign ministers who met here to discuss the establishment of a Central American parliament have agreed.

The five foreign ministers were asked about the signing of the document, which could "be the last effort or stage of the Contadora Group's work," according to several of the ministers who were approached. Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador have agreed to sign the document. However, Nicaragua is still examining the implications of that document.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita explained that "our country has already sent its reply to Panama, expressing support for and confirming its agreement with the Panama Commitment and officially advising the group that Guatemala "will sign the document on 6 June."

Quinonez indicated that Guatemala "will participate in the talks preceding the signing of the document which will discuss the arms situation in the various countries." I believe, the foreign minister said, that Contadora will not fail. We hope that Nicaragua will also sign the peace document.

Meanwhile, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Rodolfo Castillo Claramount stressed that "the Salvadoran Government will never deny support to Contadora because it is working for regional peace; what we most long for."

It is clear to the Contadora Group that Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and El Salvador have every intention of signing the document within 60 days and that these countries will send their representatives to sign it on 6 June, he indicated. All of those factors respond to the Contadora Group's efforts to preserve peace and to Nicaragua's rash policies. However, a decision was reached by Contadora before the most recent meeting in Panama. It was agreed that "no obstacle, policy, behavior, or bilateral action will obstruct the signing of the document." Therefore, we will sign the document despite all the problems derived from the Nicaraguan situation.

Asked what will happen if Nicaragua refuses to sign, the foreign minister said: I believe that will have to be dealt with when it happens. We must not jump to conclusions at this time. We are confident that Nicaragua will reconsider its position and sign the document.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said in connection with the signing of the Contadora Document that that will be a very important moment for the future of "our peoples, because it will allow peace and cooperation to flourish in the region." We are willing to attend all the meetings to conclude the negotiations. We are eager to sign the document on 6 June. That decision was reached during a meeting of officials of the current administration of Luis Alberto Monge and the elected officials of the administration that will assume power on 8 May upon President-elect Oscar Arias' swearing in.

Costa Rica's position is very clear: We are willing to sign the document. We would like all of the area countries to sign it.

We will sign even if one of the countries does not support it, because we believe that the Contadora process should end with concrete, specific action. The only specific action that can conclude the process is signing the document for peace and cooperation in the region.

Asked if Nicaragua is reluctant to sign, Gutierrez said: I believe every government must consider the historical responsibility its decision implies. It is enough to see the support the Contadora Group process has received from all of the world's countries, including the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Vatican -- not to mention all of the Western European and Latin American countries. Whoever obstructs the Contadora process, whoever prevents regional peace being attained through the Contadora process will assume an enormous responsibility before the international community.

PRENSA LIBRE also interviewed the Nicaraguan foreign minister at the Camino Real Hotel. He issued a brief statement, indicating that "Nicaragua is being attacked." He said that various of the countries that allow the so-called contras to have support stations are partly to blame for that. He said that Nicaragua wants to contribute to peace and has supported the Contadora Group, but that the United States is seeking ways to destabilize the Sandinist government.

He said that his government is currently examining the Contadora Document in depth and that it will reach a decision about it within the next several days. We want peace, he stated, but we demand that our domestic affairs be respected.

Meanwhile Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said that Nicaragua's radical position is the main problem for Contadora. We have traditionally worked for peace, and more so because it is the peace of the region. That is why we have vigorously participated in Contadora's efforts. We accept that group's ideas and proposals for the attainment of a stable, long-lasting peace in Central America.

We also accept the concept of reaching an overall solution to the problem. This is due to various reasons. However, I believe that the basic factor in the complexity of the Central American problems for reaching peace and harmony between our peoples is the result of a difficult situation that will not be resolved through simplistic legal or military solutions. What we mean is that that isthmus' problems, because they are complex, will not be resolved militarily, bilaterally, or through solutions imposed from abroad. Nor will they be resolved through simplistic legal or political solutions.

That is why there are four countries mediating in the conflict and why they were joined by four other countries that offered to support the Contadora negotiations. A multilateral negotiation between 13 Latin American states must be undertaken. We are seeking a Latin American solution to a problem that is in some ways part of the East-West conflict.

There have been military incidents between the military forces of the two countries. However, Honduras -- and many friendly countries can attest to this -- has been moderate and cautious in its handling of those incidents. That does not mean that Honduras' political view on the Central American problem has changed. We are aware of factors that are agitating the problem, including the arms race. The excessive military build-up is in itself a threat to Honduran security.

SOCIALIST PARTIES' MEETING OPENS IN MONTEVIDEO

PY121719 Paris AFP in Spanish 2051 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Delegates from Latin American, European, and Middle East socialist parties today opened the first Latin American Socialist conference in Montevideo. The conference will conclude on 13 April. The meeting, which is taking place at the headquarters of the Uruguayan Socialist Party [PSU], will tackle, among other things, the foreign debt and the regional integration, and a project to establish a permanent Latin American Socialist organization.

The meeting opened with the participation of representatives from the Argentine Popular Socialist Party (PSP), the Bolivian Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), the Brazilian Democratic Labor Party (PDT), the Chilean Socialist Party, the Paraguayan Febrerista Revolutionary Socialist Party (PSR), and the Venezuelan Movement Toward Socialism (MAS). The sponsors of the meeting told AFP that they expected the arrival of more Latin American delegations and stated that observers from the GDR, Cuba, France, Israel, Mexico, Nicaragua, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) are also attending.

PSU International Relations Secretary Jose Diaz has stated that during the meeting will examine concrete actions to promote decisive progress for the fall of the two remaining South American dictatorships, namely the Pinochet and the Stroessner dictatorships.

'Coordinating' Body Created

PY141856 Paris AFP in Spanish 1345 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 14 Apr (AFP) -- The creation of a coordinating organization charged with promoting an exchange among Latin American socialist parties has marked the conclusion of the first political conference of Latin American socialist parties. The seat of this organization will be established on a rotational basis, and Montevideo will be its first host. Uruguayan deputy Jose Diaz will be its secretary general; Leonidas Rodriguez Figueroa of Peru its chairman; and Guillermo Estevez of Argentina its deputy chairman.

During the conference, which started on 11 April, the socialist leaders approved a bylaw for this organization and discussed social, political, and economic problems affecting the region.

In its closing declaration, the conference issued a warning about the risks involved in the U.S.-Libyan confrontation which, it says, has placed the whole world on the brink of war.

FURTHER ON VISIT BY VENEZUELA'S LUSINCHI

Address to Congress

PY102358 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1955 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Speech by Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi to National Congress--live]

[Text] Honorable President of the Argentine Senate; Honorable President of the Argentine Chamber of Deputies; Messrs Lawmakers: In this historic Argentine place I feel the emotion of once again meeting with the legitimate representatives of a noble, sustained, and unyielding struggle for the freedom and democracy of this nation and of the entire continent.

This is not merely a formal visit. My desire, which I am now expressing before you, is to pay tribute to a nation that has always been and will always be present in the battles for justice and freedom.

My country has achieved a stable democratic regime only after long years of struggle, suffering, and even horror for thousands of Venezuelan soldiers. This seems a simple, solemn statement. Yet it is a distressing tragedy to be immersed in terror, loneliness, and political conflict, and to find that our relatives, friends, and companions are missing and will not return.

The great Argentine people, their representatives, and their courageous and progressive government have learned from their own recent and past experience that to surrender freedom entails a great loss and that to reconquer it entails great sacrifice. From Venezuela, we have for several years followed this difficult struggle with a strong spirit of Latin American solidarity and appreciation. Ours was not a superficial feeling because we saw our own suffering reflected in the suffering of the Argentina people. The exiled citizens of this nation gave us a chance to exercise our brotherly appreciation and to receive the benefits of Argentina's cultural tradition. In Venezuela more than in any other place, the Argentina exiles were close to their fatherland, surviving and struggling to change their country, which they found to be a different, unsatisfactory nation. Seneca, the dean of exiles, said: I love my fatherland although I don't like it. This meeting at the Argentine democratic Congress is very significant for me because I am essentially a politician who has struggled for democracy and who has dedicated most of his political life to congress.

An institution that represents modern life and the national being, Congress is a stage for political struggle and also a moral reserve against oppression and injustice. It promotes democracy and the existence of political organizations and sectorial opinions. It safeguards freedom of expression and promotes respect for human rights, which are the foundation of freedom and sovereignty.

The Argentine people have shown that they are proud of the restoration of their pluralistic democracy, which they achieved with firm determination and perseverance, reflecting the strength of a national community that expresses itself through the ideas and principles that take their roots in the best Argentine traditions.

This strong determination has encouraged democratic America and has led to the fulfillment of American ideals.

The Argentine democracy means much to us, not only because the Argentine people deserve to live in democracy because of their history, their qualities, and their struggle but also because of our own democracy. Disregarding the fact that Venezuela and Argentina have many times followed different courses throughout their history, we can note something very simple: Each free country is a pillar for the others.

This is how a vast, indestructible tissue is built, isolating those who just 14 years before the end of the century are shamefully oppressing their people and giving them the kind of life which Argentines and Venezuelans consider a past experience that will never return. [applause]

This is the way it should be, for the well-being of our people and to guarantee democracy in Latin America. However, I want to point out that these are times of keeping watch, without hesitation and with prudence, over the institutionalization of the new political regime.

Sometimes the just demands appear within a comprehensible outburst, but they are sometimes dangerous because they lack strategic rationality. There are some people who legitimately ask if, in addition to the sufferings of the past, we now have to bear other less compulsive sufferings. There are others who are upset because the sufferings imposed by despotism on the majorities are not being resolved with the urgency demanded by the newborn freedom. There are others who ask themselves if it was worth so much struggle to get such poor results in the short term. I am expressing this opinion with respect, and as a Latin Americanist.

Our Venezuelan vision, formed over almost 3 decades of uninterrupted democracy, indicates that any effort to stabilize and preserve democracy is worth it. Nothing can be above democracy because only democracy can improve itself. Nothing is more valuable and rewarding than defending democracy because the injustices that persist or are recycled can be fought. Nothing is more important than its influence, because it allows the use and expansion of imagination and criticism, making it possible for the people to create new and better options. Democracy is important to those who live with it, but it becomes inalienable to those who recover it. [applause]

I recently said before the Venezuelan Congress that the crisis affecting Venezuela stems, to a large degree, from the pressures on our raw materials, from the tendency toward low prices, and that the problem of external indebtedness is creating a new phase that demands a consciencious collective effort for the sake of national progress.

This consideration is also valid if we transfer it to the international scene. It has a singular dimension in the case of Latin America because we all have similar problems, and the external factors that interfere and put pressure on our economies are also similar. In many ways this is the time for rectifications if we aspire to make a reality of our hopes for peace and understanding, which are the bases of organization and international coexistence.

In addition to the negative attitude of the centers of power it is a well-established fact that the tensions that are disturbing international relations nowadays are the result of the contradictions and conflicts of the superpowers in their efforts to maintain their dangerous domination. Domination is not only obsolete for the development of mankind but has also been proscribed by the will of the people, by reason, and by international law.

The search for a Latin American identity, the need for an expression integrating us into the prospects and possibilities of world civilization, are permanent issues in the thoughts and actions of statesmen, leaders, politicians, and intellectuals.

The truth is that, apart from the need for an identity, and concepts of integration, Latin American is constantly present and actively assuming its responsibility in all kinds of activities under different circumstances and conditions. Latin America has done its part and continues to, with the characteristics that unify and identify Latin America before the industrialized countries and in solidarity with the developing countries of other latitudes.

The political experience of the regional community, the progressive development of its institutions, and the consistency of its traditions and interests has permitted the identification of tools, measures, terms, and perspectives required for its full accomplishment.

This is not an isolated event, stemming from or expressed by phenomena involved in the East-West of the North-South relationship. It is truly a way of acting, stemming from a common history, belief, and tasks rooted in the formation of our national states and in the making of our peoples.

The Latin American community exists and develops itself because it is being upheld and advanced daily by the ideas and the actions of today's men and women.

The dynamic presence of Latin America in several fields shows us that it is mature enough to express itself as an entity with its own ideas and peculiarities vis a vis developments in a world that increasingly involves, brings together, and intertwines the nations regardless of their conditions or location.

The values that make up our national or regional heritage are intrinsic and, thus, cannot be denied.

Therefore, at a time when the world demands new ideas and the willingness to overcome the crisis involving our generation with events and consequences that are projected into the future, it is important to reach solutions while paying heed to the needs and demands of our peoples.

We are entitled to and demand that we be allowed to share equitable and fair possibilities for development.

Thus, the great question posed to every country and to the region as a whole involves a reaffirmation of our concepts, a strengthening of our agreements, a strengthening of our solidarity. We must act with a sense of opportunity and with enough skill to find the true essence of our regional identity, by reconciling interests and possibilities. The advantage of strengthening the joint presence of Latin America on the international scene is obvious.

In addition, it is profitable to diversify our trade as a community, offering each other a true scope of opportunities.

At this time, when the word colonial is archaic in the hemisphere, only the strong presence of our countries, sincerely and integrally linked with the continent's endeavor, will open a new perspective to Latin American integration.

Latin America lies ahead of us as a project and a challenge. The identity -- still evasive -- which we have sought so diligently is awaiting us and perhaps already dwells in these formidable lands of the continent and we have not yet fully noticed it. Nearly 500 years after the discovery of these lands, we are on the verge of discovering ourselves.

A common history and a dedicated search for our definition as a nation and the design of our destinies and our political, geographic, and socioeconomic integrity have made Venezuela and Argentina firm champions of anticolonialism, in solidarity on the just and historic claims against our territories which the old hegemonies and political power cliques have transferred to our times.

Within this concept, Venezuela has not hesitated to emphatically support the Argentine nation in its indisputable claim of full sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. [applause]

The vestiges of imperialistic colonialism are an affront not only to this honorable nation that endures it but also to the independent Latin American spirit and to our century-old struggle against any type of submission.

Therefore, I cannot fail to reiterate the Venezuelan people's solidarity and my country's resolute support of this just Argentine and Latin American anticolonial claim.

Therefore I must reiterate the Venezuelan people's solidarity with and support for the just anticolonial demand from Argentina and Latin America, a demand that we will not forget. [applause] Testimonies of Argentine solidarity have already been given by the illustrious Argentine Foreign Minister Dr Luis Maria Drago, an American jurist of universal stature, who in a firm, determined, and opportune manner affirmed, as a doctrine and law, the immunity of jurisdiction that is inherent in the full exercise of the sovereignty of our states. The Drago Doctrine, upon establishing the unacceptability of using armed intervention to force states to pay debts, offered timely moral support in the international crisis that affected Venezuela early in this century. Measures such as this regain validity because the precepts on which they are based reinforce the principle of nonintervention in international economic relations, which constitutes a norm for the community of nations. The current validity of the Drago Doctrine is undeniable.

Many nations today are confronting the serious problem of the foreign debt, which contributes to the deterioration of the difficult economic situation our countries are experiencing. The foreign debt implies a new form of intervention, which is humiliating at times. I agree with the recent statements of the illustrious President Raul Alfonsin to the Group of 24, pointing out that we are immersed in a huge crisis of international cooperation, in a crisis whose main roots can be traced to the discriminatory and deflationary policies of a majority of industrialized countries to the detriment of the balance of payments of the debtor countries. We are certainly weighted down by the difficulties imposed by the economic crisis, and this forces us to adopt wholesome and rational decisions. In fact, many of our countries are burdened with the restrictions and distortions caused by a huge foreign debt, which acts as a drag on our economies. Without departing from the spirit of solidarity that is embodied in the Cartagena Consensus, each country has proceeded, according to its peculiarities, to adopt mechanisms for the restructuring of its commitments, both to straighten out its relations with the international banking system and to open a clear panorama of possibilities and limitations.

In January Venezuela signed an agreement with the creditor banks incorporating the so-called contingency clause that establishes that if our earnings in foreign currency deteriorate appreciably, and consequently the payment terms initially agreed upon jeopardize the nation's economic performance, the contingency clause will be activated. Since an appreciable deterioration of our earnings has already occurred, my government has set the mechanisms in motion for the review of the agreement in accordance with the legal provision that was established upon its signing.

I am not mentioning this mechanism as a model for any other nation, because each country will find the formula it deems appropriate to manage such a demanding and complex problem. However, it is important to stress that both Venezuela and Argentina, as well as many other brother countries, are willing to put our financial houses in order. We are determined to correct errors and to strictly comply with our commitments, but not to impose sacrifices on our peoples. [applause] With a new concept of economic development, we hope that these objectives will not be contradictory. But if the lack of conscience of the world powers in the political and economic areas should make these objectives contradictory, we will not hesitate to follow the interests of our sovereignty and independence, and our undeniable mandate to preserve the national entity. [applause]

It is time for our countries and the entire international community to stop insisting on the obligation to pay the debt, regardless of any other consideration.

The time has come for our countries and for the international community to stop addressing the debt payment as an end in itself. We have clearly stated that no country can be forced to pay more than it can afford and that payment of the debt cannot be detrimental to the basic well-being of our peoples. Furthermore, to limit ourselves to contracting fresh loans only to pay previous loans would be a clearly inadequate political move, which would become absurd if the funds thus obtained served only to pay interest on old loans. [applause]

The management of our debt should be subordinated to the economic growth and development of our countries. Otherwise, it would not benefit anyone; not even the creditor banks, which could collect their loans only if the creditor countries are prosperous. We should insist on the need to promote a broader concept, that is, to guarantee an adequate flow of funds for development, which would be instrumental in helping us overcome our economic crisis and which would thus benefit the world economy as a whole. Only this positive, sound, broad approach will allow us -- creditor and debtor countries, and international banks as well -- to have an effective, lasting solution to the chronic debt problem.

We endeavor to strengthen our economies and to further our regional contacts so that we can increase our trade of goods and services. Thus, we are expanding existing channels for promoting production and trade in an effort to diversify our economies, to overcome unemployment, and to build a better future. We intend to achieve these objectives not only by expanding and diversifying our bilateral relations but also through regional organizations and associations, such as the OAS, SELA, and ALADI, among other instruments designed to bring together all Latin American countries and to implement their will.

We seek to materialize the much-discussed solidarity. The risks and imbalances of the world economy are evident; its content is also awesome. Equally awesome are our geopolitical relations, which are plagued with serious difficulties and imbalances because they are based to a large extent on power politics that disregard not only the principles of international law but also the very socioeconomic realities of nations and regions. A sad example of this is the Central American crisis.

New concerns have arisen over the much-publicized Central American situation as a result of the continued implementation of policies that are based on a mistaken approach to the problem. Any piecemeal consideration of the elements and factors involved in the Central American situation aimed at emphasizing the interests of a country that seeks to pursue its own strategy, based on the significance it attaches to its security or to the influence it seeks to exert, is contrary to reason and to the legitimate aspirations of the governments and peoples of Central America. Anyone serving foreign powers or factors, no matter who he is, is disserving Central America and its desire for democracy and freedom. [applause]

The nature of the efforts undertaken by the Contadora Group, which is backed by the Support Group and encouraged by the international community, is well known. This mediating, goodwill effort was prompted by a serious danger and threat to the sovereignty, independent development, and democratic self-determination of the Central American countries. We have acted responsibly, as true Latin Americans, without bias or concealed intentions and we will continue to do so. To promote this effort to find peaceful solutions to the problems of Central America as a whole and of each individual country has been and will continue to be our goal in this peacekeeping effort.

Argentina and Venezuela share similar positions on many basic challenges facing mankind. Disarmament and a sound solution to all conflicts acquire special significance this year that has been designated the International Year of Peace.

The Latin American countries are currently confronting a serious problem that might undermine the very foundations of our society. Drug trafficking and its implications have become a political and social issue that jeopardizes the security of our peoples. Aware of this situation, we have promoted and cosponsored regional and international initiatives aimed at designing strategies and enacting appropriate measures, seeking to build a common front based on solidarity and cooperation. We believe that only a coordinated effort by the interested countries will successfully act against this serious threat to the health, welfare, and security of our peoples.

Argentina is one of the great countries of the world. It is the world's eighth largest country and has extraordinary human resources. It has vast natural resources that serve to promote development and that allow for positive expectations for its future. It has food surplus and industrial capacity for processing its raw materials. It has attained virtual self-sufficiency in the energy sector. It has a society that is undergoing changes on the basis of social equality. It has a proper atmosphere for enjoying freedom, expressing political ideas, and achieving self-fulfillment.

Only a few countries enjoy such conditions for the pursuit of happiness. All of us are expectant, wondering how the Argentine political system will deal with the demand and major goals. This matters to us from a Latin American viewpoint. That is why I have to say it. [applause]

Venezuela holds in high regard the capacity of the Argentine people, the great Argentine nation. We have common positions, concerns, and efforts. We are confident that Argentina will attain its objective of living in peace and democracy, enjoying feasible progress in an honorable, just, and free society built by its own people.

This visit reflects the close links between Venezuelans and Argentines, links which are founded on strong and promising historical, political, cultural, and economic ties, and, in one word, on their common heritage, aspirations and future.

We feel encouraged and reassured by the ideals of the American heroes. I am referring to San Martin and Bolivar, whose shared ideals nurtured the solidarity and understanding and which have emerged as an unquestionable truth that has been strengthened by time. I quote: In June 1818 the Liberator's message to the River Plate people offered the solidarity of Venezuela, proclaiming unity as the South American banner. In January San Martin, the liberator, congratulated Bolivar by saying: Defenders of the same fatherland, devoted to the same cause, and with the same feelings for the freedom of the new world.

Honorable Representatives of the Argentine Republic: I express my warm thanks and appreciation for your noble gesture of receiving me. This body reflects the feelings of all Argentine sectors. I want to thank all of you on my own behalf and on behalf of the country that I represent. To end this address, along with the fraternal Venezuelan people's message that I am conveying, let me invoke the Liberators. I will not do it because I miss the past or because I want to make a grandiloquent historical remarks, but because I want to strengthen the Liberators' vision of a united America.

I want to strengthen it with the demands that emerge from our everyday life and from our own hopes. Let us work with what we have. And we, gentlemen, do have the solidarity of the peoples to whom we belong and for whom we should work. [applause]

Let us pose this demand, which is more urgent and stronger than ever. I came here to say this and to pay tribute to the great Argentine people and to their democracy, and to ask for their solidarity for our great common task. Praise forever to Jose de San Martin and Simon Bolivar. Thank you, very much. [applause]

Joint Communique Issued

PY120325 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0008 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today agreed on the need to intensify actions to end conflicts, favoring the relief of tensions and promoting social and economic development of the peoples. In a joint declaration that was signed tonight at Government House, the two presidents expressed satisfaction at the increasing strength of democracy in the continent, and considered that the best tribute the region can offer to democracy is to implement its ideals of peace, justice, and freedom.

During the ceremony at the Government House, Alfonsin and Lusinchi also signed a memorandum of understanding providing for the installation of a political commission to analyze questions of common interest. Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Consalvi also signed an agreement for bilateral economic cooperation that can be adhered to by other Latin American countries interested in multilateral integration, and another agreement creating a permanent joint commission.

The joint declaration signed by the two presidents says that the servicing of the foreign debt with its current interest rates and repayment periods, the current terms of trade, and the increasing difficulties in exportation is causing a heavy transfer of resources abroad, which postpones investments and social expenditures indispensable for the resumption of growth and the legitimate satisfaction of social demands.

Alfonsin and Lusinchi ratified their decision to work, through the regional and worldwide international organizations, for the promotion and defense of human rights, and expressed their support for the principles of legal equality, sovereignty of the states, self-determination, nonintervention, and the peaceful solution to international controversies. The Argentine and Venezuelan presidents voiced their repudiation of all forms of racial discrimination and colonialism, and agreed to maintain the process of consultation aimed at strengthening and consolidating the democratic institutions in Latin America.

Regarding the situation in Central America, the two presidents warned of the serious and unforeseen consequences for the countries of the region in the event of the failure to find an integral, peaceful, permanent, and immediate solution as laid down in the Act of Peace and Cooperation in Central America, and through this the genuine democratization of all the countries in that area.

They called upon the parties involved in the Central American conflict to show a more definite political will to reach understanding through dialogue, negotiation, relief of regional tensions, and restoration of confidence -- factors that are fundamental in culminating the Contadora peace process.

The joint communique stressed the importance for the area's pacification of the agreement reached between Costa Rica and Nicaragua to improve their relations and to establish a civilian commission for observation, prevention, and inspection of the border between the two countries. In the communique, Lusinchi reiterated his country's support for the Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands, and deplored the existence of this anomalous colonial situation in the American continent.

Lusinchi agreed with Alfonsin's concern over the massive British military presence in the area, including a strategic airport which seriously affects the region's peace and security, and firmly endorsed the resumption of talks between the parties involved in this century-old conflict in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful and final solution to the dispute over sovereignty of the Malvinas within the framework of the UN resolutions on this issue. The Argentine and Venezuelan presidents reasserted their deep concern over the increase of terrorism on a world scale and condemned this insane and absurd practice, regardless of its origin.

Alfonsin and Lusinchi committed their efforts within a rational framework to combat illicit and absurd drug trafficking and admitted that international cooperation will be an effective mechanism to erradicate this scourge. Alfonsin and Lusinchi expressed their concern over the slow growth of world trade and economic activity, the slump in the prices of raw materials -- especially petroleum, grain, and meat -- protectionism, and monetary and financial instability, most notably the persistence of the high levels attained by the real interest rates.

Concerning the foreign debt, Alfonsin and Lusinchi insisted on the need for political dialogue between creditors and debtors, stating that real interest rates must return to their historical values, that deadlines for settling the debt must be extended, and that prices of basic commodities must recover appropriate levels.

Alfonsin noted in the document that in the case of Argentina, the drop in the prices of agricultural and livestock products deeply affects the national economy, and the two presidents agreed to repudiate the protectionist policies and the unfair commercial practices used by the industrialized countries in the international agricultural and livestock market.

The Argentine president invited his Venezuelan counterpart to join in preparing a treaty on regional assistance for foodstuff emergencies, a proposal on which Lusinchi expressed his willingness to cooperate. In addition, they agreed to promote in Latin America a review of mechanisms aimed at strengthening regional security for the energy supply.

Alfonsin and Lusinchi emphasized the appropriateness of urging the international community to provide for the creation of effective support mechanisms as soon as possible to contribute to the promotion of the economic and social development of Bolivia to overcome the especially critical situation currently being experienced by that country.

At the conclusion of the ceremony in which the document was signed, Alfonsin said that the ties between the two countries are excellent but that even between good friends, between brothers, it is appropriate to strengthen those ties of affection. Alfonsin stated that the only thing missing was the presence of the visiting head of state to voice the affection of the Venezuelan people for the Argentine people as he is doing. Lusinchi emphasized the historical ties linking Venezuela with Argentina and the search for similar solutions to similar problems. Lusinchi stressed that he was able to find out how much the Argentine people love their liberty and democracy, how determined they are to defend them, and how the Argentine president has consolidated his leadership.

Alfonsin Speaks at Dinner

PY111730 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0134 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin tonight warned that the enormous foreign debt that is burdening our economies and punishing our people is a threat to democracy in the continent. Alfonsin blamed most of the current economic problems on the unfair international economic order and said that rather than a bigger foreign debt our continent needs to stop bleeding, to stop sending enormous amounts of money to the developed countries at the expense and the misery of our people.

The president was speaking at City Hall during a dinner held for his Venezuelan counterpart, Jaime Lusinchi. In his speech, Alfonsin said that the unprecedented crisis we are experiencing can be overcome only through domestic work and international cooperation. Alfonsin went on to tell Lusinchi that his democratic country supported and encouraged those who could see the light at the end of the long tunnel of authoritarianism and violence, and he recalled Venezuelan solidarity with Argentina during the Malvinas war.

In his speech, directed mainly at the problems that the nations of the South are experiencing because of their foreign debts, the Argentine chief executive indicated that these problems can not be solved through domestic measures alone and, most certainly, require actions by the industrialized nations.

After lashing out at those who want to place the burden of the foreign debt exclusively on the shoulders of people who have nothing and never received anything, Alfonsin emphasized that if this position is accepted, we will be adding political disorder and an upsurge in violence of unfathomable consequences to economic disasters. Alfonsin stated that we are surprised that these threats are not properly understood in the developed democratic countries and recalled that at the end of World War II, the destroyed European countries benefited from assistance programs that permitted an economic recovery which soon began to yield its fruits.

The Argentine president added that Latin America's current situation is very similar to that of Europe after the war. He voiced his hope that the developed democratic countries will soon understand the political implications of the problems stemming from Latin America's foreign debt. If we take a look at the past, he said, we will see that Latin America's history has been a sequence of attempts at national and regional integration, of efforts to attain this integration and also efforts to prevent it, coming both from domestic sectors and powerful foreign interests. He emphasized: Thus, within the current world power structure, Latin America's only feasible solution is to display a strong political will to attain a high level of political, economic, cultural, scientific, and technological integration.

Regarding the Central American situation, Alfonsin clearly stated his conviction that this Latin American problem must be solved through a strictly Latin American solution stemming from the proposals of the Contadora Group. Alfonsin concluded by saying that we would display a lack of historical awareness if we failed to realize the full extent of what our people can do together. He added that the ideas of liberators Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin are as valid today as ever before.

Lusinchi Stresses Autonomy

PY111925 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0152 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi tonight asserted that the political solutions to our crisis cannot be subject to foreign arrangements responding to the interests of the great powers. The president made this statement in referring to the Central American situation, voicing his solidarity with the efforts being made by the Contadora Group and the Support Group.

Lusinchi spoke at the City Hall in response to a speech made by President Raul Alfonsin during a dinner party in his honor. Lusinchi said that nowadays economic well-being and political stability go hand in hand. The visiting president then said that the strength of civic institutions and liberty depend basically on the degree of well-being that the governments are capable of offering the people. He went on to recall the efforts made by the governments of the two countries which, with eagerness and determination, have been striving for a fair and reasonable international economic order.

Lusinchi added that this task has been based on the defense of the price of raw materials, access to the various markets on fair terms; the transfer of technology; and lastly, effective social justice. He said that we are striving to increase national productivity, seeking to become self-sufficient in basic products, with the participation of all sectors as a result of a democratic process that seeks material well-being and the spiritual peace of the people, for whom liberty and independence are cardinal values. At the end of his speech, Lusinchi referred to the links between Argentina and Venezuela, which are deep-rooted and rich, based on a common history, and inspired by the concept of continental unity.

Lusinchi, Ubaldini Meet

PY111927 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0040 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM) -- A possible meeting of Latin American union leaders and the strengthening of democracies in this part of the continent were the main subjects discussed tonight at the meeting between Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the Argentine General Confederation of Labor [CGT].

The meeting took place at the hotel where Lusinchi is staying, and Juan Jose del Pino, head of the Venezuelan Workers Confederation [CVT], also participated. At the end of the meeting, Ubaldini said that they studied the possibility of holding a Latin American congress of union leaders, sponsored by the labor movements of several Latin American countries. Ubaldini added that the Venezuelan president showed that he knows a great deal about general Argentina subjects. The report given by Ubaldini stressed the defense of the democratic system, but also provided some details on the Argentine workers' demands.

Regarding the foreign debt, he said that they had talked about the need to promote Latin American development while preserving our interests, and about the possibility of creating a common front to face the foreign debt problem. Ubaldini concluded by saying that Del Pino, the representative of the Venezuelan workers at the meeting, extended an invitation to him to visit Venezuela, which I will do, he stated, after the problems we are now facing in our country are solved.

Economic Agreement Signed

PY121827 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0310 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (TELAM) -- This afternoon Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi signed an agreement at Government House. The agreement concerns economic cooperation between the two countries and sets up a permanent mixed Argentine-Venezuelan commission. The goal is to efficiently promote the best exploitation of the productive factors, stimulate industrial complementation and integration, and promote the development of solidarity ties and economic cooperation.

In addition, it was decided to strengthen, activate and diversify trade activities, including commodities and services, seeking to correct, as much as possible, the quantitative and qualitative imbalances of reciprocal trade. The agreement's goals also include stimulating the investments in the industrial sectors aimed at exploiting the respective markets and those of third countries, and facilitate the creation and functioning of binational and multinational regional enterprises.

The agreement also contemplates a program of deregulation and the elimination of other restrictions that have a bearing on the imports of products made and coming from the signatory countries, products that are listed on the supplementary protocol. The 16-page, 41-article agreement painstakingly describes its possible applications. The duration of the agreement is 3 years, and it may be revoked only with 6 months advance notice.

The two foreign ministers also signed an exchange of notes referring to the establishment of the permanent mixed Argentine-Venezuelan commission, including the coordination, consultation, and assessment of the cooperation between the two countries in the financial, economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, and technological fields.

Lusinchi on Bilateral Ties

PY122110 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1516 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (TELAM) -- During a press conference, Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today said that the Venezuelan and Argentine economic policies are complimentary and called President Raul Alfonsin an exceptional man. Lusinchi also stated that Argentina and Venezuela are two countries that for many years have been leading the continent and called the British factual possession of the Malvinas Islands an act of piracy.

During the press conference, which was held at the Florida hall of the Plaza Hotel, Lusinchi said that the virtual "triangle" supporting the Latin American democracies, comprising Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela, is a platform but not an exclusive triangle. Lusinchi said that we agree on need to unite all the democratized Latin American countries: Colombia, Peru, Mexico (a country Lusinchi called "the big brother"), among others, who do not have exclusive aspirations. Lusinchi also emphasized that the strengthening of these relationships is a concrete goal of the Argentine, Brazilian, and Venezuelan governments, complementing what we have been doing with other countries. The return of Brazil to democracy, with an irreversible character, is of utmost importance for the American fate, as is the return of democracy to Argentina, Lusinchi said.

A journalist asked Lusinchi what he thought about a democratic country that "publicly discusses" its policy of meddling in the destiny of other country, in this case, a Latin American country, obviously alluding to the discussions held at the U.S. Senate concerning the assistance U.S. President Ronald Reagan seeks for the Nicaraguan contras. We do not believe in a military solution. As much as we oppose U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, however, we also oppose Soviet intervention in Nicaragua, Lusinchi stated. After a moment of silence, he said: because both of them are intervening.

Concerning the trade that could take place between Venezuela and Argentina, the Venezuelan head of state said: We produce petroleum and all the hydrocarbon by-products. We have a sophisticated petroleum industry -- one of the best in the world, with its own technology and extraordinary capabilities. Petroleum is a product we could offer Argentina. At this time, Argentina is self-sufficient in petroleum, but it is self-sufficient because of low consumption. At any rate, in this field we are always willing to cooperate with this country, Lusinchi stated. Lusinchi said that Venezuela also produces albumin, which could exported to Argentina.

He said that Argentina could sell Venezuela many things, such as agricultural products. We are absurdly importing these from other countries, as well as industrial products of very good quality that Argentina could export to us. Lusinchi added that what has happened is that trade between Argentina and Venezuela was interrupted and now that the situation has been normalized there is going to be important trade with great possibilities for development in the commercial field. I believe that we can also cooperate in the technological field.

He indicated that during the meetings with President Alfonsin and his Cabinet, we set the basis for understanding that we will develop and improve our relations in the political field as well as in the economic, scientific, and cultural fields. He added that Venezuela and Argentina have complementary economic policies, which will facilitate things.

In a brief introduction, Lusinchi publicly thanked Alfonsin for the invitation, saying Alfonsin is an exceptional man. Lusinchi added: I am not saying that as a conventional expression but as the result of observation. I am perfectly convinced that the Argentine people, who have great historic astuteness, found the perfect man to lead them.

Lusinchi said that in today's world the revolutions' proposals must be very well-conceived in accordance with the possibilities and objectives and the resources available to fulfill those objectives. He added: We made many mistakes that led us to a dictatorship that lasted 10 years.

Views Falklands 'Piracy'

PY122150 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1749 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (TELEM) -- Venezuelan President Lusinchi, who has a busy schedule with his visit to Uruguay this afternoon, accepted a suggestion from one of the members of his delegation and decided to end the press conference at the Plaza Hotel after 1 hour of open dialogue before television, recorders and flash cameras. Just before leaving, however, he held a brief dialogue with the press. During the dialogue, Lusinchi made a few comments on the British military occupation of the Malvinas Islands, which security personnel "insisted" should not be recorded.

Among other concepts, Lusinchi commented on the long history of illegal occupation of territories and colonialist policies. Finally regarding the British position, Lusinchi said that the occupation of the islands is a plain and simple act of piracy.

At the door of the conference hall, TELAM asked Lusinchi about the statement made a few days ago by Peruvian President Alan Garcia during a press conference with Argentine journalists in the San Martin Theater. On that occasion, Alan Garcia said that any act of aggression on Peru. I fully agree with the Peruvian president, said Lusinchi just before being "led" out of the hall by his guard of security agents.

Lusinchi on Drug-Terrorism Link

PY122152 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1752 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (TELAM) -- During the last part of his press conference, Lusinchi said that the terrorists have made a historic mistake in mingling terrorism with drug trafficking because, as he said to the newsmen, they have become morally disqualified, and drug trafficking will finish them. He said that Venezuela is making great efforts to neutralize what he termed our era's most serious problem. He added that drugs, among other topics were also discussed in Argentina, as well as the need for joint efforts in fighting drug addiction, which threatens even unborn babies in the use of drugs by pregnant women.

RETIRED L.A. OFFICERS REPUDIATE U.S. BOMBING

PY150402 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0329 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (EFE) -- Retired military officers meeting in Buenos Aires today repudiated the U.S. attack against Libya during the session that closed the second Latin American Defense Forum. The military men, who today ended their meetings which started on 11 April, harshly criticized the U.S. Government's decision to carry out military actions against Libya.

During the ceremony that closed the forum -- with the attendance of EFE -- the news about the bombing attacks was announced, and several of the officers started shouting vivas "to the countries fighting for their liberation" and slogans supporting the Tripoli government. Military officers from Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Colombia, Uruguay, Chile, El Salvador, Peru, Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic today created the "Organization of Military Officers for Democracy, Integration and Liberation of Latin American and the Caribbean (Omidelac)."

SOURROUILLE RETURNS FROM IMF NEGOTIATIONS

PY141819 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2310 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr (NA) -- Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille today returned to Buenos Aires from the United States, where he held talks aimed at obtaining new credits for Argentina. A few minutes after his arrival, Sourrouille telephoned President Raul Alfonsin from Ezeiza International Airport.

Tomorrow Sourrouille will join the intense negotiations being held among government officials, congressmen, labor union leaders, and businessmen, seeking to achieve a multisectorial dialogue which may eventually bring about an agreement with the General Confederation of Labor [CGT] and the suspension of the stoppage scheduled by the CGT for 24 and 25 April.

Reliable sources have reported to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that the economy minister returned to Buenos Aires after announcing in the United States that he would tender his resignation if the unofficial talks being held among government officials, congressmen, and the CGT leaders required "a substantial modification of the Austral Plan."

Sourrouille arrived at Ezeiza International Airport at 0940, where he was welcomed by a small group of Economy Ministry officials and his closest relatives. After disembarking, the economy minister went to the airport's VIP room, from where he called the Olivos Residence and talked with President Raul Alfonsin for more than 15 minutes. Although the contents of this conversation have not been reported, it is taken for granted that Sourrouille informed the president of the results of his negotiations in the United States, which aimed at obtaining new loans from the IMF and the private banks. It is possible that Alfonsin was informing his economy minister on the state of the negotiations with union leaders and businessmen, seeking to call together an economic and social conference.

ALFONSIN APPEALS FOR L.A. INTEGRATION

PY111845 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0710 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin today made a passionate appeal for Latin American economic and political integration, stating: I am convinced that the future of the continent lies in our effectiveness and determination to achieve it.

Speaking to an auditorium filled with Latin American political leaders at the opening session of a seminar on "Political Parties and Integration" held in the San Martin Theater, the Argentine president demanded a market that will truly be at the service of our growth. He stated that we have this market here, within our reach: It is Latin America. Alfonsin added: We should seek a different order for our region by first strengthening the political field so we can later consolidate the economic field.

The president concluded his message by calling for the second emancipation of Latin America. But first he made an extensive evaluation of the Latin American insertion into what he described the Western model of liberalism, socialism, and Christian socialism, ideologies on which we want to base our own type of society. Alfonsin then criticized market fascism, which he said was created by the extreme individualists of liberalism and made up of authoritarian experiments that sacrifice all freedom to economic freedom.

He also referred to socialism which, upon being crystallized dogmatically as a complete doctrine without fissures, after a long and complex historical process joined the old tradition of Eastern despotism, creating a formula for totalitarian modernization that adjures political pluralism and fundamental freedoms. The presidnet did not compare what we know as Western culture with what we call the West in the politico-military sense. Neither did he interpret our cultural links with the West as adherence to the strategy of the West.

He said that the difference between East and West disappears at the level of international relations and that the two blocs blend into an over-zealous doctrine of security, in which both ideologies abandon their principles. Alfonsin stated that Latin America feels it is part of the West but that it also knows it belongs to the economic and politically underdeveloped South. In reference to the last Tupac Amaru, Alfonsin said: I feel that I have risen from the depths of servitude to the haven of freedom.

Alfonsin also said that if democracy does not flourish or strengthen throughout the entire Southern Cone, there will not be a safe and stable world for anyone. He added that we must keep the discussion open. We Latin Americans are ready to participate in the only political concept that seems possible for the formation of a new, stable, legitimate, and ethical international order.

Alfonsin went on to say that the conditions to carry out the great transformation of the region are within our reach, but that the policies that will permit us to make significant changes in the region will not be classic policies. He said that those policies have not yet been written, adding that they must be bold. He said that the only condition to carry out a transformation is within our reach: It is the unity of the region. Alfonsin indicated that the Cartagena Consensus, the Contadora Group, and the Contadora Support Group are the nonconventional answers to the political problems that threaten our freedom, growth, and security.

Toward the end of his speech, the president pointed out that so long as we are situated at the points of friction of a world that undergoes continuous cracks and upheavals, we run the serious risk of being the adjustment variables of those economies. There is no doubt, he added, that we will be the first to be sacrificed. In fact, we already are if we consider, for example, the agricultural products war unleashed between the EEC and the United States or the drastic fall of oil prices. Alfonsin concluded by saying that these are times to face a new challenge, the challenge to carry out the second emancipation of Latin America.

CGT STOPPAGE OF 24-25 APRIL REPORTEDLY POSTPONED

PY101839 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The General Confederation of Labor [CGT] has decided to postpone the 48-hour general stoppage scheduled for 24 and 25 April, asking for a minimum wage of 120 australes for workers and pensioners. This announcement was made at the National Congress by [CGT] leaders Miguel Candore and Pedro Goyeneche after a meeting held by the CGT delegation at noon today with Senate President Victor Martinez and a group of legislators. Candore and Goyeneche stated that, in order to suspend the stoppage, the CGT is demanding a 120-australes minimum wage for workers and pensioners and the reinstatement of all the workers dismissed during the past conflicts. Candore and Goyeneche stated that the CGT is willing to overcome the problems.

CONGRESS APPROVES JOINT MANEUVERS WITH U.S.

PY111648 Paris AFP in Spanish 1428 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Congressional sources told AFP here today that the Bolivian Congress has held a secret 4-hour meeting during which it authorized joint maneuvers by the Bolivian and U.S. Armies in Chapare (Cochabamba), in central Bolivia. These operations will be held from 26 April to 6 May. The following parties voted to approve the maneuvers: the ruling Historical Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNRH) of Victor Paz Estenssoro, General Hugo Banzer Suarez' Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), Carlos Serrate Reich's Vanguard faction of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR-V), and Luis Ossio Sanjines' Christian Democratic Party (PDC).

Antonio Aranibar Quiroga's Free Bolivia faction of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR-BL), Hernan Siles Zuazo's Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), Roger Cortez' Socialist Party One (PS-1), the Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB), and the Tupaj Katari Indian Movement (MITKA) voted against the maneuvers. The MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left) led by former Vice Presidenz Jaime Paz Zamora, now a major political party in Bolivia, chose to leave Congress without explaining whether or not it supported the maneuvers.

It has been reported that 245 U.S. troops will arrive in Bolivia for the maneuvers and that more than 1,000 Bolivian soldiers will participate in the exercise. Those who opposed the arrival of U.S. soldiers claimed that it would violate national sovereignty and represent tacit approval of Reagan's interventionist policies in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Libya. A MITKA deputy warned that the United States and Paz Estenssoro's administration are getting ready to repress the coca farmers (who produce coca leaves, the raw component of cocaine) who live in Chapare, where the maneuvers will be held. Those in favor of the maneuvers argued that the Bolivian Army had to be modernized and that its technical training had to be updated.

COB Rejects Maneuvers

PY121502 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 11 Apr (AFP) -- The Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) today decided to reject holding joint military maneuvers by the Bolivian and U.S. Armies, calling them an attempt to trample on the country's sovereignty and intimidate the people. The trade union leaders state that the military forces seek to frighten the peasants in Chapare, central Bolivia, where the maneuvers are to take place. Coca leaf production is the income source of Chapare peasants. A COB document states that the military exercise, which is called "Bol-USA II," is in no way justified because it is to be held in central Bolivia where there is no chance of a war or aggression by a foreign power. On his part, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Edward Rowell has stated that the military exercise is a normal part of the relationship between the Bolivian and U.S. Armed Forces and that in no way is it an attempt to meddle in the internal Bolivian affairs. In a closed session on 11 April Congress approved the executive branch request for permission for the maneuvers despite the opposition of left-wing parties and civilian, trade union, and regional organizations. The "Bol-USA II" maneuvers will begin on 26 April and last for more than 10 days. More than 200 U.S. advisers and 1,000 elite forces of the Bolivian Army will participate.

PRESIDENT BETANCUR DEPARTS FOR NEW YORK

PA141843 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Bogota, 14 Apr (DPA) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur traveled to New York today where he will receive a UNICEF award tomorrow. The president was accompanied by his wife and a small official retinue on board the Colombian presidential plane. He will return to Bogota Monday night. In Betancur's absence, his duties will be assumed by Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, who will later make an official tour of India and Egypt.

Comments on Trip, Contadora

PA150320 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] President Belisario Betancur is taking advantage of his trip to New York to strengthen the work of the Contadora Group and to secure an agreement between Nicaragua and the United States. [sentence as heard] During a brief conversation with the media, Betancur appeared to be relatively optimistic about the negotiations process of the Contadora Group and denied that last weekend's meeting in Panama could be called a defeat. He said that the most important aspect of the Panama meeting was that all the countries of the area were present. He noted that on Saturday, Nicaragua delivered a document stating that it is prepared to sign the Act for Peace and Cooperation before 6 June under conditions that he believes that with goodwill can be positively met.

EDITORIAL ON NICARAGUA'S RENEWED CLAIM OVER CAYS

PA142016 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Apr 86 p 4-A

[Editorial: "Contadora No Longer Counts"]

[Text] Once again the good intentions that inspired the process of Contadora regrettably crash against harsh reality. It is odd, to say the least, that each time the interested countries are about to sign a protocol, Nicaragua flies off on a tangent and creates a new incident that foils any possibility of achieving consensus. The first time, it was the problem with Urbina Lara; the second time coincided with a border attack launched by the Sandinists against Costa Rica; the third time, the Junta members chose to demand an additional protocol with the United States in which the Americans would have to promise not to attack Nicaragua; and now -- and this is very important for Colombia -- they have revived their unusual claims over San Andres and Providencia.

The bad part about this is that it could be seen coming. We did not like the way in which Nicaragua sought to freeze the alleged conflict with Colombia at the beginning of the Betancur administration, and we said as much in these columns. Knowing that Betancur could be very useful to them -- as, in fact, he has been -- Foreign Minister D'Escoto openly announced then that "for the time being" they would disregard their pretensions over the cays. In other words, the Sandinists were saying said that they would not revive the conflict so long as Colombia "behaved itself."

Colombia has done nothing but behave itself and respond to such generosity by defending Nicaragua within Contadora. For instance, no one has been able to explain satisfactorily the fact that while President Betancur has based his peace policy on dialogue and negotiation with the Colombian guerrillas, Contadora has not done the same when it comes to favoring a direct dialogue between the contras and the Sandinists. This is merely one case.

There are many other examples of Colombia's benevolent and indulgent attitude toward Nicaragua; so much so that a former colleague of the current Colombian foreign minister told him at one point that he acted more like the foreign minister of Nicaragua than of Colombia.

For the Sandinists, all this is of little consequence. The stab in the back that they have just given President Betancur toward the end of his mandate is part of their strategy. It should not be forgotten that Trotsky used to say that to consolidate the revolution any crime could be regarded as good and moral. It is a constant element of history that tyrannies and despotic regimes need an external enemy to justify their domination; when it does not exist, they simply make it up. So what Nicaragua has just done is not surprising. Underhanded games and opportunism are normal procedures for the guerrillas nurtured by Cuba and the Soviet Union. We have confirmed this right here with the Colombian guerrillas. The Sandinists are the same thing.

It remains to be seen what stand Colombia will take regarding this new action by Nicaragua and what will be the repercussions on Contadora's mummified cadaver. If we guide ourselves by past actions, we could predict a simple exchange of diplomatic notes -- as in the case of the improper Nicaraguan intervention in the seizure of the Justice Palace -- and a bucket of cold water in an effort to calm tempers and forget the issue. How much longer will our foreign relations be handled through wishful thinking rather than on specific realities?

ELN CLAIMS BOMB ATTACKS ON PARTIES' OFFICES

PA142323 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Report by Jairo Saravia Hernandez]

[Text] Today the self-styled Army of National Liberation [ELN] claimed responsibility for attacking several main offices of the Liberal and Conservative Parties in Bucaramanga and Barrancabermeja. In Bucaramanga, seven high intensity bombs were placed in the headquarters of the Liberal and Conservative Parties. Five of these bombs exploded, causing damages of over 20 million pesos. In Cucuta and Barrancabermeja, bombs were also placed in political offices. A guard in the Avenue No 36 sector where the three offices were attacked said the following:

[Begin recording] I could see the bomb from here, at Street No 25, I went down to the liquor store to call the police, but the owner refused to call. Then I went back and the bomb's fuse was almost gone. The bomb had a fuse, and it was inside a blue knapsack hanging on a door. Then I went to ask another guard to let me use his telephone. As I was leaving, the bomb went off. I quickly ran to the corner of Avenue No 36, and then the other two bombs exploded. [end recording]

The main headquarters of Virgilio Barco campaign and parliamentary candidates Alfonso Gomez Gomez, Horacio Serpa, Eduardo Mestre, Jose Luis Mendoza, Tiberio Villareal, and of Conservative Faisal Mustafa Barbosa were totally destroyed. Bucaramanga Police Chief told Noticias 1 newscast:

[Begin recording, in progress] ...apparently belonging to the subversive ELN group, as can be surmised from the leaflets found. They placed seven bombs, five of which exploded, in several political headquarters in this city. As you can see the bombs caused heavy damage, especially to the facade of the buildings. Two bombs did not explode. Members of the GOES [Special Operations Group] police group deactivated them. [end recording]

INTERIOR MINISTER CALLS RALLY INCIDENT 'MINOR'

PY142222 Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro today described as minor the incident that took place yesterday in San Jose de los Arroyos.

[Begin recording] [Montanaro] That was a minor event that was provoked by those who attempted to hold a rally they knew was not authorized by the government because they are dissident groups that had branched off of the Radical Liberal Party, which is a recognized party but did not sponsor the rally. Despite being notified of the prohibition, they attempted to hold the rally and were dispersed. There is nothing else worth mentioning. We are certain we are defending national peace and tranquility. Those who were detained were already released this morning. Thank you.

[Unidentified reporter] Minister, couldn't the rally have been averted without striking blows?

[Montanaro] No... What blows?

[Reporter] Those reported by politicians.

[Montanaro] No, you may take a look at the appropriate medical reports. No one has been injured; no one has been wounded; no one has been seriously injured.
[end recording]

LA TARDE EDITOR SCORES 13 APRIL INCIDENTS

PY142226 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 14 Apr 86 p 1

[Front page commentary entitled: "Democracy Without 'Macheteros,'" by Humberto Dominguez Dibb, owner-editor of LA TARDE]

[Text] Police yesterday prevented an opposition rally in San Jose de los Arroyos, while in Santani the Colorados of the area were able to hold a parade without any type of obstacle. In addition, people from Santani who came to San Jose de los Arroyos were able to participate with the tacit support of the police. Why is permission given to some and not to others? Our country is a country of free and democratic men, but this golden principle was not taken into account yesterday when freedom was granted to only a few. The stain is even greater when democracy and freedom are taken advantage of by the chief of the Police Investigations Department, who is the leader of the "Santani macheteros" [Colorado Party campesinos, usually sugar cane cutters and others whose main tool of trade is the machete], who demonstrated without any problem in Santani, and even in San Jose de los Arroyos. That is the sin of some people, who, believing that they are helping the country's democratic image, simply smear, mutilate, and destroy democracy. Democracy can never be obtained with "macheteros;" democracy must be obtained with the undeniable force of words and in the appropriate place: congress, where the people, through their own desire, peacefully want to do so.

H.H.D.

GARCIA DISCUSSES STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM

PY141759 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] President Alan Garcia Perez today talked about his visit to the Republic of Uruguay at a press conference held at the Government Palace, shortly after his return.

[Reporter] Mr President, our country has suffered many terrorist attacks. In view of these attacks that are becoming more frequent every day, what will we do?

[Garcia] Exactly what we are doing: gradually increasing our vigilance. I will not discuss the intelligence operations that have infiltrated terrorism, because it would be foolish and naive to speak of this publicly. However, our intelligence service is working better all the time, and its actions are important. What should be understood is that terrorism has been operating for many years, slowly gaining followers, who believe in this criminal and violent doctrine. We have to face this situation and try to solve it, taking into account what is fundamental. Like the economic problem, the problem of violence is historical in the country and it will not be solved in a few months. We have to co-exist with these fanatics for a while, because there are blind criminals who are the products of indoctrination by misguiding ideological centers, as well as of the conditions of their own families. However, we have to keep fighting until we defeat them, by demonstrating that democracy is better and by making people realize where violence leads.

Certainly, we can respond in kind to the violence of terrorists, but then it would be the democrats and those who believe in civilized coexistence in progress and justice who would lose. The important point is to understand that the police are working, just as the Armed Forces are working. However, it is difficult to identify those who operate in the anonymity of a city of 6 million people. You know that a group of five or six people in one or two cars can, in one night, throw dynamite sticks at the doors of different banks. What the Peruvians must not do is to play into their hands by involving ourselves in terrorism. We must try to keep the good image of our country internationally. I have been reading Uruguayan newspapers, clippings of newspapers from recent months that the ambassador gave me, and I saw headlines reading Day of Terror in Lima, because 5 bombs exploded or a policeman was killed. Well, it would be a day of terror if there were an earthquake, wrecking the entire city of Lima. We must not fall into terrorism, as the terrorists would like it. We have to be confident that with time and patience, we will win the battle against the terrorists, who will see their numbers decrease and more of them landing in jail.

[Reporter] In that case, would you consider the possibility of extending the state of emergency and curfew for the rest of the year?

[Garcia] That will depend on the circumstances. We do not have to think that far ahead. The British say don't jump to conclusions. Let's wait 60 days and we will see...if these measures are effective or up to what point they are effective. Then we can see what complementary measures can be adopted. What I can tell you is that the Armed Forces and the organs of the Interior Ministry are working in silence. You know that many terrorist cells have been broken up and their members arrested. This has been done with due respect for our Constitution, fighting the terrorist wave that has been advancing for quite some time. And we will defeat it, because with patience but firmness, we will defeat these disbelievers in democracy.

[Reporter] The Centromin [Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise] strike is affecting the country, Mr President. What measures will be taken to solve it?

[Garcia] The solution has already been proposed by the Labor Ministry. We Peruvians must not bow to blackmail. In fact, a government that gives in to blackmail is a weak government, and I would rather quit and go home before giving in to blackmail. An agreement was signed whereby the government almost doubled salaries; that is, from the 14,000 soles per day that was offered, we ended up granting through the negotiation 26,000 soles per day. This means 700,000 soles per month in salary increases. There will be other readjustments the rest of the year. Once this agreement was signed, as the labor minister reported, terrorists or fanatics assassinated those who decided to go back to work and the strike was resumed, as blackmail to some extent. Well, if some are willing to give in to blackmail, we are not. And I believe that the first thing is not to back down in the face of blackmail, because it must be understood that salary increases, unfortunately, cannot be higher than inflation. Do not forget that in the past 8 months, inflation has been less than 50 percent, while in 8 months before this government came to power it was 175 percent. How can we then grant salary increases of 150 or 200 percent, as is asked sometimes. To grant this kind of increase we would have to take it away from the poorest. So we cannot retreat in the face of blackmail. We have a government, and if the Peruvians voted for a government on 14 April 1985 and inaugurated a new regime on 28 July, it should be understood that this government needs authority.

GOVERNMENT ASKS MORE POLICE OFFICERS TO RETIRE

PY110003 Paris AFP in Spanish 2227 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Lima, 9 Apr (AFP) -- It was officially announced today that the government has asked 10 Civil Guards, Republican Guards, and Investigative Police generals to retire in keeping with the reorganization under way in the police forces. Interior Deputy Minister Agustin Mantilla said that the measure is a normal procedure that has been implemented by the new police joint command in keeping with a law on reorganization.

The new purge of generals from the three branches of the national police forces brings to 1,847 the number of commanders, officers, and lower-ranking personnel retired in the wake of several reports of alleged corruption and immoral behavior among the upper echelons of the police. Mantilla, who said that the list of retired officers will be released shortly, added that the real objective of the measure is to establish a ceiling for the number of officers per rank. He emphasized that the retirement of the 10 generals will open new vacancies for further promotions. The reorganization was launched in August last year on orders of President Alan Garcia and was supposed to end in mid-March.

BRIEFS

FOOD IMPORTS PLANNED -- Agriculture Minister Remigio Morales Bermudez has announced during a television interview that Peru intends to import food worth $342 million during 1986. [Excerpt] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Mar 86 p 4 PY]

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PY122042 Paris AFP in Spanish 2022 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Apr (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi arrived in Uruguay this afternoon for a 3-day official visit. This is the last stop of his South American tour, which included Brazil and Argentina.

Lusinchi arrived at 2015 GMT at the Carrasco International Airport from Buenos Aires and was welcomed by President Julio Sanguinetti.

During his stay in Montevideo, which will last until 15 April, Lusinchi will meet with the Uruguayan president, visit ALADI, address the Congress, and sign bilateral agreements.

Uruguay and Venezuela resumed diplomatic relations in March 1985 after a 10-year hiatus that ended with the reestablishment of democracy in Uruguay.

Meets With Sanguinetti

PY130116 Paris AFP in Spanish 0052 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Apr (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi tonight held his first working meeting with President Julio Sanguinetti within the framework of his official 3-day visit.

The meeting, which was held in Sanguinetti's private residence, was also attended by Venezuelan and Uruguayan Foreign Ministers Simon Consalvi and Enrique Iglesias, respectively.

Lusinchi and the members of his delegation will hold a second meeting with Sanguinetti tomorrow to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Dedicates Monument

PY132340 Paris AFP in Spanish 2242 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Apr (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today met with his Uruguayan counterpart Julio Sanguinetti within the framework of his 3-day official visit to Uruguay. The two presidents discussed issues related to bilateral relations which will be expanded in economic and cultural areas, as Lusinchi said during a speech he made this morning to Venezuelan exiles living in Uruguay.

This afternoon the Venezuelan chief executive dedicated, despite the rain, a monument to the memory of Latin American hero Simon Bolivar, on the seaside boulevard in Montevideo. Lusinchi extolled Simon Bolivar and said that he is a symbol of Latin America's struggle for freedom and unity.

Later Lusinchi attended a reception that the government hosted in his honor and then attended a welcome gathering organized by the diplomatic corps accredited to Uruguay.

Tomorrow Lusinchi will go to the Montevideo City Hall to receive the keys to the city and meet Vice President Enrique Tarigo. He will then address the Uruguayan congress.

MINISTER SAYS 'NO INFORMATION' ON BORDER INCIDENT

PA110254 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Regarding an incident at the Colombian-Venezuelan border, Defense Minister Vice Admiral Andres Eduardo Brito Martinez has said that he has received no information that two Venezuelan officers were involved in the incident.

M-19 GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY ATTACK BORDER POST

PA121326 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Report by Martin Pacheco]

[Text] Search teams made up of Venezuelan and Colombian troops are after the armed group that attacked a National Guard post in the town of Orope, bordering on the Zulia and Tachira states. At the same time, members of the DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services], Judicial Technical Police, and Military Intelligence are conducting pertinent investigations.

[Begin Pacheco recording] Seven heavily armed men and a woman who identified themselves as members of the M-19 guerrilla group who were dressed in olive green uniforms have carried out a surprise attack on the Venezuelan National Guard post in Orope, south of the the Maracaibo Lake, specifically at the border between the Tachira and Zulia states. The action took place at approximately 0200. The three soldiers who were guarding the National Guard post in Orope initially responed to the attack, and as a result of the heavy exchange of fire, distinguished soldier Gonzalo Alfonso Guerrero was killed and four of his companions were wounded. They were identified as Melvin Paz, who is out of danger, Samuel Urbina, Eladio Gutierriz, and Jairo Cardozo, who are in serious condition.

Here in Caracas, Acting Interior Minister William Davila Barrios confirmed the reports. However, he said he had no further details, given that the investigating commissions are currently at the site of the incident. In the next few hours the security commissions of the Venezuelan and Colombian Interior and Defense Ministries will ascertain which group or individuals attacked the Venezuelan National Guard post. [end recording]

GUYANESE CITIZENS ARRESTED IN CIUDAD BOLIVAR

PA121534 Paris AFP in Spanish 0527 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Five Guyanese citizens were arrested in this city, 800 km south of Caracas, and are being investigated for allegedly being members of the Guyanese Secret Service. Police sources in Ciudad Bolivar reported that the five arrested Guyanese citizens who, because of an irregularity of the foreign office, were carrying documents identifying them as Venezuelans, are being interrogated since there is enough evidence linking them with the the Guyanese intelligence service. It was also reported that if found guilty, they will be expelled from the country.

Meanwhile, the Venezuelan officials who legalized the alleged spies' papers will be accused of treason, because they directly or indirectly collaborated against Venezuela in favor of a foriegn government. Since the end of the past century, Venezuela and Guyana have been in dispute over the rights to the Essequibo area.

GORBACHEV TO VISIT IN 1987, SHEVARDNADZE IN 1986

FL141144 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0110 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Diplomatic sources have reported that CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Mexico in 1987 while Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will do so next September. Gorbachev's trip to Mexico will be made within the framework of the Soviet leader's tour to several Latin American countries, although he will visit Mexico at the invitation of the Mexican Government. [passage indistinct]

REPORTAGE ON IPU CONFERENCE, FINAL RESOLUTION

Venezuelan on Oil Production

FL111500 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0357 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Despite the pressures of certain countries that belong to OPEC, Venezuela will not reduce its production of crude oil or its export platform, Anselmo Natale, Venezuelan deputy and member of the delegation that is attending the IPU Conference, has said. He said that the present crude oil price war does not benefit anyone, has not yet come to a head, and could provoke the collapse of the world financial system.

The legislator added that, under these circumstances, it is not possible to reject completely the possibility of paralyzing production as a means of waging this war. Nevertheless, such action would be an error, as it was for OPEC to try to defend crude oil prices unilaterally. Since 1979 OPEC has maintained an erroneous unilateral policy and is paralyzing production. This is an old strategy that can be dangerous if carried to extremes, he concluded.

Cuba's Aguirre on FRG Plan

FL141857 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2250 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Cuban delegation has called the FRG's proposal about canceling the foreign debt of 23 poor countries positive and beneficial for developing countries. This was said by Cuban parliament member Severo Aguirre when he was interviewed within the framework of the 75th IPU Conference, which will end in this capital today.

Severo Aguirre urged all creditor countries to adopt the same stand the FRG has assumed toward Third World countries' inability to pay its debts incurred with different international financial institutions. He asserted that it is very important because this economic pressure blocks the development of weak countries which are also facing serious social and political problems. We thank the FRG and support its position, he said.

Aguirre also noted he is in favor of stopping the arms race as well as banning the use of conventional, chemical, and nulcear weapons to avoid a generalized war which no one would be able to win. He also favored the withdrawal of the Israeli delegation from the IPU because Israel continues to apply a fascist and discriminatory policy against countries such as Palestine, Libya, and others. The Cuban official asserted that the Israeli delegation immediately decided to withdraw from the conference when they were told only truths.

Panamanian Official Speaks

PA142244 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] During a plenary session of the 75th IPU meeting held in the Benito Juarez Hall [in Mexico City] Camilo Gozaine, president of the Panamanian National Assembly, referred to the international situation:

[Begin recording] Mr President, this is why we cannot simply speak in this forum about the arms buildup and fail to report what is going on in Central America. Every day we must deal with someone else's determination to use our territory, to establish bases in our country for a confrontation in Central America. We want to stress today that, in view of these demands, our defense forces have played an important role. They have not let themselves be used for an armed pacification of Central America. We also want to emphasize to you people and the world that the only solution for the conflict should be sought through negotiation and dialogue. We must prevent a solution from being imposed from without and by force by any of the powers involved in the conflict. [end recording]

Resolution Draft Approved

FL141642 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0355 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Parliament members of the world have approved a resolution draft demanding the parties in conflict in Central America sign the Contadora peace document and respect its measures without foreign intervention. The bill submitted by the world IPU's resolution committee urges all countries tied to Central America to facilitate the signing of the Contadora cooperation and peace document. The document also refers to the need to halt the arms race, giving special attention to the use of space, nuclear, conventional and chemical weapons, effective measures against international terrorism, elimination of tension areas in the world, and particularly the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

It also reaffirms the rights of all countries of the region to live in peace and safety, free from foreign intervention and it supports initiatives aimed at achieving regional unity in Central America through the creation of a Central American parliament or any other kind of cooperation agreement.

Regarding disarmament, the legislators expressed in the document their concern over the danger to which the space arms race subjects humankind and asserted that this kind of technology should be used to benefit humankind with peaceful purposes.

They also expressed satisfaction over the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting held in Geneva aimed at achieving and speeding up disarmament negotiations to prevent a space arms race and to wipe it off the face of the earth. The legislators also said they were pleased with the understanding of the two chiefs of state to prevent and oppose a nuclear war because they are certain that a nuclear war cannot be won by anyone.

The document emphasizes the importance of regional efforts to create areas in the world free of nuclear weapons aimed at a total world disarmament with previously established agreements made between regions of the concerned countries. They make a call to all states and their parliaments to contribute with the signing of a nuclear test treaty which should be part of a broader nuclear disarmament process and not a substitute to the reduction of this kind of weapons.

The document condemns all kinds of terrorist expression, practice, or act, regardless of where it is carried out or who the perpetrator is and deplored the loss of human lives caused by such incidents.

Parliament members oppose senseless acts of international terrorism and countries' making concessions to terrorists inasmuch as the international community cannot yield to those individuals' blackmail. They call for all parliaments to follow such policy. They agree that it is the obligation of the country where hostages are taken to take urgent measures to ensure their liberation and prevent future acts of this kind. The document warns the states signing agreements on terrorism to take appropriate measures to eliminate the problem by harmonizing domestic legislation with existing international agreements and by preventing that terrorist acts be planned in their countries.

They call parliaments to make sure that their countries are not used as safe territories for those individuals who promote terrorism.

They also make a call to strengthen appropriate international organizations to work toward greater safety in commercial sea and air travel.

Document Signed; Session Closes

PA141532 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Report by Agustin Granados]

[Text] The IPU has asked the IMF to facilitate access to its resources for poor countries. Legislators from 94 countries agreed that IMF recommendations to debtor countries must have a more sensitive, flexible, and varied outlook; they should place more importance on production, growth, and development. For world legislators, it is urgent to reform the international monetary system and establish mechanisms to pay the foreign debt in keeping with the balance of payments and the economic growth of developing countries. The recommendations mentioned above are part of the most important portion of a resolution approved at the closing session of the 75th IPU meeting. The document also states that the World Bank must broaden its capacity to finance development projects and suggests that industrialized countries cooperate with the International Association for Development and Reconstruction with an initial participation of at least $12 billion. Mexican Senator Miguel Borge Martin read the resolution at the plenary meeting.

The 75th IPU meeting closed its work sessions yesterday in Mexico City. Speaking during the final session Senate leader Antonio Riva Palacio, president of the conference, expressed hope that communication and dialogue among legislators will lead to construction of a world of peace, justice, and liberty to which we all aspire.

During the morning session of its last workday the IPU elected a new board of directors. French legislator Pierre Cornillot will be the new president for a 4-year period beginning January 1987. Mexican Senator Patrocinio Gonzalez Garrido was elected vice president. Cornillot replaces Italian legislator Pio Carlo Terencio.

After 8 days of work, the IPU meeting closed. World legislators will meet again next October in Buenos Aires.

BELIZE

MINISTERS AUTHORIZE SALE OF BONDS, PASSPORTS

FL110302 Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 6 Apr 86 p 4

[Text] Documentary evidence coming out from Belmopan has revealed that on February 7th 1986, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Dean Barrow and the minister of home affairs, Mr Curl Thompson signed a letter of commitment on behalf of government agreeing to the sale of 1,000 Belize passports. The plan approved by the United Democratic Party [UDP] plan that was receiving the active consideration of the previous administration in a number of significant ways.

The People's United Party Plan

1. The previous government was considering a proposal to authorize eligible British citizens from Hong Kong who make an approved investment to be determined by the Belize Government. They would have to qualify for naturalization before being granted a Belizean passport.

2. The previous government was considering only British citizens of Hong Kong.

The UDP Plan

1. Under the proposal accepted by Barrow and Thompson, the government has decided that anyone who buys a bond is entitled to a Belize passport, and the Constitution of Belize was amended to allow this to happen.

2. The present government is opening the scheme to anybody, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Guatemala etc.

It is interesting that even before the National Assembly considered the Loans Act, both Ministers Barrow and Thompson had already agreed to the plan which has been hailed by their news organs as "a bold and imaginative scheme" to raise revenue. Yet while the previous government would have used this bold and imaginative scheme to raise funds to build schools, roads, health clinics, sporting facilities, etc., the Esquivel government is desperately gambling on this bond issue to try to cover its deficit in the budget. The letter signed by Barrow and Thompson referred to "an initial allocation of 200 blank passports already delivered" to the agent for sale. So the sale of passports has already begun.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER-DESIGNATE DENIES U.S. PRESSURE

PA142319 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1900 GMT 14 Apr 86

[By Wilfredo Chacon S.]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, Costa Rican foreign minister-designate, has denied that Costa Rica has been pressured by the United States in retaliation for the stance of President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez in opposition to the aid for the anti-Sandinists.

Pressures on the Costa Rican Government were mentioned in an article in THE WASHINGTON POST. The article stated that the president-elect has been particularly pressured into cooperating more with the U.S. policy to aid the counterrevolutionaries.

The newspaper published a statement by Elliott Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, denying that the United States had pressured Costa Rica.

In San Jose, Madrigal Nieto backed up Abrams' statement and said that Abrams "is telling the truth," because during their meeting after Arias' statements Abrams "never voiced any threats or suggested that reprisals would be taken over the president-elect's opinion."

Before accompanying the president-elect on his visit to five South American countries that began today, Madrigal Nieto told the press that "the aid for the anti-Sandinists" has become tied to "the U.S. domestic policy, in which we should not participate."

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, when he was in San Jose, Abrams told current president Luis Alberto Monge that the Reagan administration was concerned over Arias Sanchez' statements.

The U.S. newspaper stated that since Abrams' trip to San Jose, the United States has been withholding economic aid from Costa Rica as a clear warning to Arias' new government.

Madrigal Nieto insisted, however, that loan disbursements for the Costa Rican Government have been suspended since October for technical reasons and not because of Arias' statements, which were made nearly 3 months later.

BRIEFS

SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT -- Miguel Blanco Quiros has been elected the new president of the Costa Rican Supreme Court. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Apr 86 PA]

EL SALVADOR

DEPUTY MINISTER COMMENTS ON REFUGEE PROBLEM

PA141940 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta by unidentified reporter on 11 April; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Acevedo] I wish to send cordial greetings to YSKL and the Salvadoran people. We participated in a meeting on 9 April in Costa Rica involving representatives of the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], El Salvador, and Honduras to make official once and for all a tripartite commission, made up by El Salvador, UNHCR, and Honduras, which is tasked with preparing an appropriate, humanitarian, and just program to facilitate the return of Salvadoran refugees, who are in Honduran camps under the supervision of UNHCR, to El Salvador in the near future, if they so desire.

This is very important because it is in keeping with President Duarte's humanitarian and democratization policy to solve all existing problems with our neighbors and the international community through peaceful means. Therefore, the Salvadoran people should be satisfied that the tripartite commission was finally established to carry out a very important task of drafting a just, humanitarian, and appropriately structured logistics program; a program that will allow the refugees, through the unilateral expression of their will to return to our country in the near future, after the establishment of favorable conditions for their reincorporation into their fatherland's society.

[Reporter] Dr Acevedo, according to reports from Honduras, some refugees said that the Honduran Army is exerting pressure on them to abandon their camps in Colomancagua. We would also like to know whether you discussed why the UNHCR has been helping the Salvadoran guerrilla with weapons during the meeting in Costa Rica.

[Acevedo] Regarding the first question, I would like to say that the repatriation process, in keeping with the 1951 Refugees Statute that regulates UNHCR structure and activities, is emminently voluntary in nature. No person or government, regardless of whether it is the receiver, that is El Salvador, which is the country of origin in this case; or the host country Honduras; and no authority, including the UNHCR, is empowered to force refugees to leave countries where they are residing temporarily. This is an eminently humanitarian issue; it has nothing to do with political issues. Therefore, the humanist principle, which is reflected in the full text of the repatriation and refugee statute, goes against any government pressure in this regard. Claims of any pressure are invalid. In fact, this why this commission was established. This commission will be tasked, in addition to its many other important responsibilities, with preventing these kinds of problems and pressure that are not contemplated within a strict repatriation scheme.

Regarding your second question on UNHCR aid to the guerrillas through camps, we asked the host country Honduras and UNHCR to officially report to us on incidents that took place a few days ago in camps where weapons for the guerrilla were found. That is not our concern at this time, because we do not have the sovereignty to carry out an investigation. However, we want to ensure that the repatriation or refugees statute will not be degenerated and distorted; to ensure that the camps, which have an eminently humanitarian purpose, will not be used for any other purpose.

[Reporter] Dr Acevedo, was the number of refugees, mainly Salvadorans in Honduras, discussed during this meeting that involved top UN leaders and commissioners?

[Acevedo] The exact number of refugees will be determined in a census. That is one of the many problems contained in the agenda of this important tripartite commission. It will draft a logistical, strategical, and complete plan within which the identification of the refugees is the first step; this in turn will yield the official number of refugees. Unofficially, there are approximately 20,000 Salvadoran refugees in Honduras. There are also other nationals who have sought refuge in Honduras due to the current Central American conflict.

GUATEMALA

MINISTER SAYS U.S.-LIBYA CONFLICT 'WORRISOME'

PA150409 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0253 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita said tonight: "The military conflict in Libya is worrisome." In a statement to ACAN-EFE, the person in charge of foreign relations in the government of President Vinicio Cerezo said: "We still do not have specific information on the U.S. attack against Tripoli."

However, any military action or armed conflict in the world "concerns us, precisely because we are trying to find peace through talks," Quinonez Amezquita said. Although the war that the United States has declared on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "does not directly affect our country or Central America, we must see the evidence the U.S. Government says it has on his participation in those terrorist acts."

Quinonez Amezquita added: "I think that the United States has proof of Al-Qadhdhafi's role in the West Germany attack, and so we must see it to determine if this has been a defensive action."

The foreign minister said: "Not even [U.S. White House spokesman] Larry Speakes has positively confirmed this, according to the reports I am currently receiving from Washington."

Tomorrow, when the Guatemalan Government receives confirmation of the Tripoli and Benghazi bombings, as well as the bombing of Al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters, it will issue a statement on this conflict that imperils world peace.

"I still think that it is premature to venture an opinion on the matter, regarding the military action or the reasons for launching a war, but at any rate, this is a worrisome conflict," Quinonez Amezquita said. The Vinicio Cerezo government has been listening to the U.S. television broadcasts received in Guatemala via satellite, the foreign minister confirmed.

CUSG REPORTS ON AGREEMENTS WITH PRESIDENT

PA112008 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Communique issued by the Guatemalan Confederation for Trade Union Unity, CUSG, in the form of a paid advertisement, dated April 1986 -- lettering, numbering of paragraphs as heard]

[Text] The Guatemalan Confederation for Trade Union Unity, CUSG, thanks the national and international press for the coverage of its activities to inform the Guatemalan people and the international community. CUSG congratulates the Guatemalan people for their decision to defend their right to a dignified life and urges them to maintain their position of demanding that they not be further sunk in destitution and poverty.

The CUSG reports that it has assume the responsibility of Guatemala with a sense of patriotism and humanity, because it is not possible for only one group to get rich at the expense of the suffering of all the people.

The CUSG also reports that it will intelligently fulfill this historic leadership role that it has assumed without compromising the people unnecessarily, because we try to bring about justice and cut down on the number of martyrs. We report to the Guatemalan people through the press that in a meeting held yesterday with President Vinicio Cerezo, he made the following commitments:

A. To apply a vigorous government policy to stop price increases by drastically applying the law on speculators, monopolizers, and horders. He will send needed complementary draft bills to the Congress of the Republic this week.

B. To draft a general tax amendment to improve wealth distribution and provide better opportunities to the masses.

C. To draft a policy to urgently solve the problem of lack of land facing small farmers.

D. To support small and medium-sized farmers to enable them to obtain low-cost agricultural inputs by creating appropriate government mechanisms and improve social aspects for popular benefit within the program for economic reorganization.

E. To approve a wage increase policy for all private sector workers based on a minimum wage similar to that granted to public employees, that is, 50 quetzales; and based on this, direct negotiations between workers and management would begin; prior to that, another meeting would be held with CUSG to learn about the final document.

F. To grant a general wage increase of 50 quetzales to all municipal workers, as was granted to other public employees.

G. To establish an easy credit assistance program for small artisans coupled with the needed technical assistance.

President Cerezo asked CUSG to suspend protest actions for 15 days in order to implement those measures.

5. The CUSG Executive Committee agrees to grant the suspension requested by President Cerezo, but clearly states that it will not abandon its commitment to the people until it achieves economic democracy and all citizens have a decent and dignified life. During the 15-day suspension of protests we will improve the organization of our ranks, but if the sectors of economic power, businessmen, industrialists, etc., as well as the government, do not satisfy the demands of the people, we will return better organized to implement our measures. In this case, that would be the total paralyzation of the country. We call on the people of Guatemala to be on the lookout for personal and press messages to coordinate a better organization with CUSG leaders.

6. CUSG states that there was no agreement regarding the main point on the economic reorganization package, that is, on the devaluation. Therefore, the confederation reserves the right to continue fighting to ensure that the Guatemalan people will not be further abused. However, we hope that the government will reflect during these 15 days and that it will apply the correct measures to upgrade the situation of poor people in this country.

7. The CUSG told the president that we disagree with the economy minister's price policy. If the minister does not come out in defense of the poor, we will be forced to ask him to resign, because this is a request being made by many in the country.

8. We express our repudiation of the repressive policy being implemented by the government minister and the police by preventing peaceful meetings, as was the case in Zacapa, Esquincla, and Totonicapan, where the police violated constitutional rights, specifically Article 33 of the Constitution.

Guatemala, April 1986

BRIEFS

RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA -- The Foreign Ministry has announced that the Governments of Guatemala and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have issued a joint communique through which, effective today, it is decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level. [Summary] [Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 11 Apr 86 p 3 PA]

UCN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY -- The Union of the National Center, UCN, hereby reports that the members of the National Executive Committee, headed by Secretary General Jorge Carpio Nicolle, today appeared at the National Population Registry to deliver the minutes of their first National Assembly in which the National Executive Committee was elected, according to the new Political Parties Law. This is part of the legal requirements for the party's registration. [Summary] [Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 12 Apr 86 PA]

HONDURAS

NO OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON LIBYAN SITUATION

PA150409 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0345 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government did not officially comment today on the U.S. military attack on Libya because Honduran officials are celebrating today's holiday. Today is the Day of the Americas and the Spanish Language in Honduras.

A spokesman for the presidential residence told ACAN-EFE that President Jose Azcona Hoyo and his leading collaborators have closely followed the development of events in Libya, but they will abstain from making comments because it is a matter strictly between Libya and the United States. Meanwhile, the Hondurans in general have been informed minute-by-minute of the development of U.S. actions in Libya through radio and television broadcasts.

There have been no additional or special security measures in Tegucigalpa at the usually well-protected U.S. civilian and military installations. The U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa announced last Thursday that extreme security measures would be adopted at their civilian and military installations for fear of Libyan terrorist attacks. It was even announced that U.S. military intelligence had intercepted messages between Tripoli and Managua ordering terrorists based in Nicaragua to attack U.S. bases in Honduras.

BRIEFS

NEW ENVOY FROM ISRAEL -- Tegucigalpa, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- President Jose Azcona Hoyo today received the credentials of Shalomo Cohen, Israel's new ambassador to Tegucigalpa. [Excerpts] [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0408 GMT 4 Apr 86 PA]

NICARAGUA

CONTRA AID DEBATE INTENSIFIES WORLDWIDE

PA141646 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Apr 86

["Beyond the News Reports" feature by Elgio Alvarez Montalban]

[Text] As has been announced worldwide, as 15 April draws closer, the date when the U.S. House of Representatives will discuss for the second time President Reagan's project to grant $100 million in aid to the Somozist contras, the intensity of debates regarding that issue is increasing not only in Latin America and the United States itself, but elsewhere in the world.

As a witty world policy observer pointed out with great accuracy, it seems as if universal world peace depends on whether those funds will be approved. Discussion of this issue has been intense and heated at all levels in official and private media in the United States. A poll shows that one out of every two U.S. citizens opposes that aid to Somozist mercenaries.

A recent incident involving Tip O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Frank Ortiz, Yankee ambassador to Argentina, reflects the seriousness of a conflict that has apparently divided world public opinion into two irreconcilable sides as if world peace were at stake; and that is indeed the case.

This is so true that Radio France International, during its transmission at dawn today, carried a lengthy commentary on this topic. It announced that the EEC is growing increasingly more concerned over the rough course of the debate and the possibility that the $100 million will be approved next Tuesday, 15 April, which is also the deadline for Latin American countries to respond to the Contadora Group demand to sign the peace document on 6 June.

President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has already said that his government will respond to a peace treaty safeguarding the rights and interests of the Nicaraguan people and the Sandinist revolution. On the verge of the House of Representatives debate next Tuesday, the Latin American response appears to have taken form in a clear and categorical manner: In Buenos Aires and Montevideo, communiques were issued by Presidents Jaime Lusinchi and Raul Alfonsin on one side and Alan Garcia and Julio Maria Sanguinetti on the other; they said that if the $100 million is approved, there will be disastrous and unpredictable consequences throughout the continent.

As it awaits the decision of the U.S. legislators, Nicaragua, as reflected in the firm but flexible statements of our revolutionary government, must not harbor any illusions in this regard; quite the contrary, it must redouble efforts to strengthen defense and production; it should be prepared for the worst of eventualities.

HONDURAN ECONOMY SECRETARY ON NEGOTIATIONS

PA111459 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Report on interview with Honduran Economy Secretary Reginaldo Panting by unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] Vice President Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado met today with the Honduran Economy Secretary Reginaldo Panting. The meeting, which was held at Government House, was attended by Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca. Here is the Honduran economy secretary commenting on his visit to Nicaragua:

[Begin recording] [Panting] In principle, we have the idea of a negotiation that will be called the great barter. We are now working on the mechanisms to make it operational. We could finalize this in the session that we are about to begin.

[Reporter] What does it consist of?

[Panting] Central banks in other countries will play a role in this. The duties of each one will be coordinated. Each importer and exporter will be issued their respective permits. This involves the use of the bilateral clearing house of Nicaragua and Honduras.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, a few moments ago, commenting on bilateral talks, you said you are willing to solve problems [words indistinct] factors not caused by those countries. What is the relation between this and President Azcona Hoyo's statements that he was being pressured by external forces?

[Panting] The president has been very clear. In his inauguration speech he also stated that he will maintain the best of relations with world countries and especially with Central America. Besides being a commercial mission, this is also a goodwill mission from our country to Nicaragua. We were welcomed in the best way possible. We could see the beginning of a new commercial phase [words indistinct] to allow Honduran ships to fish in Nicaraguan waters with a Nicaraguan permit. This could avert problems in the future. We hope to be able to finalize these negotiations in a satisfactory manner.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] statement by President Azcona Hoyo that Honduras and Nicaragua are being pressured by forces aiming to a face them off in a war?

[Panting] [Words indistinct] the most important objective is to improve the relations between our countries. [end recording]

Negotiations' Results

PA111827 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca has reported that in 1986 Nicaragua and Honduras may reach a trade exchange of up to $10 million. He noted that Nicaragua will be able to import and export some industrial products to and from Honduras.

The permanent bilateral commission will meet to discuss the payment of these imports. They will review the import volumes so that the central banks of the two countries can review the debits that stem from these imports.

Nicaragua will import rural supply products, turpentine, sanitary napkins, cellophane paper, food grinders, shoe polish, batteries, baking powder, and other products from Honduras. In turn, Nicaragua will export gauze, cotton, caustic soda, crackers, rum concentrate [concentrado de ron], and other industrial products, Martinez Cuenca disclosed.

Honduras will continue to sell electric power to Nicaragua in 1986. The foreign trade minister said that an average of 30 to 40 million kilowatt hours per month will be purchased from Honduras. He noted that during the meeting that he held with Honduran Economy Minister Reginaldo Panting on 10 April, they agreed to continue the sale of power after negotiating the debt that Nicaragua has with Honduras that amounts to more than $5.5 million. The purchase of energy from Honduras will be carried out by our country beginning in the second half or 1986, Martinez Cuenca added, emphasizing that the total purchase will be 200 million kilowatt hours in 1986.

Nicaragua is involved in negotiations with all the Central American countries to increase its trade relations, Martinez Cuenca told this station. In this regard, he said, we have concluded negotiations with Costa Rica, a country that has shown great willingness and a good attitude toward the proposals that were presented. He added that with these commercial prospects in the region positive and beneficial agreements for the country have been reached.

WHEELOCK RETURNS FROM EUROPEAN TOUR, COMMENTS

PA111936 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Commander Jaime Wheelock has returned from Europe.

Our tour of Bulgaria, Spain, and the Soviet Union has been interesting and positive for Nicaragua, Agricultural Development Minister Jaime Wheelock said yesterday upon his arrival in Managua.

Wheelock, who attended the 13th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, said that he received the solidaristic help of the plenum where he was told that Bulgaria will give Nicaragua economic aid for development projects, as well as for routine needs. We will receive credits for raw materials and special credits to deal with the U.S. aggression.

He said that it was very interesting for the Nicaraguan delegation to learn at the 13th Congress of the advances of Bulgaria and other socialist countries that are going through a very important period in the development of socialism and in the change of the socialist society that will guarantee greater economic development.

The USSR and Nicaragua signed an economic agreement. The two countries also signed a scientific-technical agreement, Commander Wheelock reported. He said that the agreement was signed with the higher organization of the USSR's agricultural directorate called Agroprom. The revolutionary leader also said that the Soviet Union will supply tractors and transportation equipment for Nicaraguan agriculture for the 1986-1987 period. This equipment consists up 1,100 units, of which 840 are tractors that will be sent in April and May. In addition, the Soviet Union promised to send us a similar quantity that will arrive in the country in November and December 1987.

Wheelock stated that he met with (Mura Dushki), deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, who expressed the firm support of his government for the Sandinist people's revolution and guaranteed firm cooperation with the plans for agriculrual and livestock development in Nicaragua.

The agricultural development minister also said that the Spanish Government and representatives of the private sector of that country are interested in developing fishing projects and projects for lumber extraction, processing, and export in Nicaragua. Wheelock, who had a very busy schedule during his visit to Spain, said that the Nicaraguan delegation held talks with several top reporesentatives of that government and members of the private sector who, at all times, expressed an interest in the Nicaraguan revolutionary process.

In general, Wheelock said that the tour of Spain, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union was very satisfactory and fruitful for Nicaragua's economic development.

LABOR MINISTRY REITERATES BAN ON STRIKES

PA142141 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2057 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Managua, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Labor Ministry today warned that all strikes or the occupation of labor centers will be declared illegal. Labor authorities recalled the legal provisions, particularly the state of national emergency, that forbid the workers to carry out "acts of coercion" that hamper production.

The Sandinist government warned this after it authorized the police to dislodge 57 workers who carried out a labor protest in a Managua manufacturing plant. On Saturday, workers of the National Clothing Enterprise [Empresa Nacional del Vestido], Enaves, rallied at the concern's gates to express their disagreement with labor conditions. The Labor Ministry described this workers' action as "illegal," and ordered them dislodged from the premises, a state property.

This gave labor authorities an opportunity to remind the people, through an official bulletin, that, according to the national emergency law and the labor code, "occupation, strikes, and coercion" at labor centers "are illegal."

MICOIN ANNOUNCES CONSUMER PRODUCT QUOTAS

PA112344 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Communique issued by Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan Domestic Trade Ministry, Micoin; in Managua on 9 April -- read by Micoin spokesman Maria Denia Salgado]

[Text] Micoin reports the following to all consumers:

1. Each person is entitled to receive the following items at our stores per month: 3 lbs of rice, 1 liter of cooking oil, 4 or more lbs of salt and one bar of soap. The consumer may purchase any quantity of salt he needs.

2. All consumers must demand that their corresponding store give them these amounts of the products by the end of each month, whether they pick them up weekly or twice monthly.

3. All complaints or problems in this regard must be reported to, or consulted with the consumer registry offices or the Micoin regional office.

[Signed] Micoin Public Relations Office

FSLN SEEKS ATLANTIC COAST AREA UNITY

PA092005 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] On 4 April, Subcommander Jose Gonzalez, FSLN delegate to Special Zone 1 in Puerto Cabezas, called for the establishment of true unity to attain peace on the Atlantic coast and complete the autonomy project. Subcommander Gonzalez evaluated the efforts made by various Indian communities, coastal organization leaders, religious leaders, and the FSLN, adding that this effort must not be divided, it must not be directed through the various commissions or ecumenical groups. A united effort must be made to strengthen the Atlantic coast's struggle for peace.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] The truth is that this process is very complex because the efforts to attain peace have been scattered. I believe that in the (?intelligence) sector, for example, Luis Miguel and Victor Ordonez, have made great efforts. However, I believe that the peace commissions, ecumenical groups, community leaders, and our Assembly Representative Hazel Lau must not continue to make scattered efforts. They must seek the creation of a truly united block for peace, the defense of autonomy, and the defense of a nation, because autonomy cannot be achieved with a political speech. Autonomy must have a solid economic base; it must have a great deal of awareness, education policies, respect among all sectors, and a patriotic attitude to defend what it seeks, to defend the people's rights within the framework of the revolution. [end recording]

Subcommander Gonzalez pointed out that the regional committee has agreed that this year talks will take place only if the mutual respect agreements, the cease-fire, respect for the people, the Armed Forces, and revolutionary power are observed by the sectors seeking peace.

[Begin recording] The regional committee has agreed that during 1986 talks will take place only if the mutual respect agreement is observed the people, the Armed Forces, and revolutionary power, and by the sectors that clearly identify their geographical location. This means that the [word indistinct] forces will establish a location to avoid confusion. If the [name indistinct] want to dialogue, they will also be established in a specific area. The rest of the areas where warmongering groups operate will face our permanent, systematic presence until we deal them a harsh blow and they give the people and the revolution a report of all of their actions.

In addition to this, we will take into account all of the vandalistic actions they have carried out. The autonomy project, the cease-fire, the dialogue, and the extensive possibilities the revolution offers are one thing; the activities of criminal and opportunist groups trying to create terror in the region are another. We will not tolerate pressure from any group in the interior. The Sandinist revolution establishes the rules of the game. The dialogue and cease-fire process demands that the groups, organizations, and sectors in the interior that are willing to participate in the process clearly establish their intentions. [end recording]

LATE REPORT: ATTACK ON LIBYA CONDEMNED

PA151249 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1206 GMT 15 Apr 86

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government today "strongly" condemned the "unjustifiable" attack carried out by U.S. planes against Libya, which it described as "premeditated." An official bulletin issued by the Foreign Ministry warned that this "new attack" by the United States "endangers world peace."

The Managua government noted that the bombing was "against populated areas in Tripoli" and that "it is totally unjustified." After condemning the attack on Tripoli, the Sandinists reiterated their solidarity with the Libyan people. The declaration states that the United States, "under the pretext of fighting terrorism, has launched this attack, exercising the most indiscriminate international terrorism."

The Foreign Ministry added that Washington ordered the bombing of targest in Tripoli's populated areas. The Foreign Ministry's bulletin said that the open use of force that has characterized the Reagan administration endangers the international community, and that the attack launched against Libya "has no justification whatsoever." The document added that this attack was only "due to the U.S. insistence on imposing its will over independent countries, in total disregard for international law."

The Foreign Ministry also said that "the U.S. action was absolutely unjustified, in view of the fact that days before Libya not only denied its responsibility, but even condemned the actions invoked by the Reagan administration to justify its attack." The bombing against Libya's capital, according to the Managua authorities was launched "without having any serious evidence supporting the accusations and attacks."

The declaration added that the United States has acted "irresponsibly" by ignoring the calls made by governments in the world, urging moderation and a peaceful solution to prevent a new escalation in the military tensions, which today have become a reality in the Mediterranean.

"In view of this situation, Managua, as a nonaligned country, expresses its solidarity with the Libyan people and issues a call to the international community to conduct efforts and demand from the United States a behavior consonant with the basic norms of international law. [quotation marks as received]

ANTI-SANDINIST GROUPS SUPPORT CONTRA AID

PA111453 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0355 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] San Jose, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Anti-Sandinist peasant and war disabled organizations have asked President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. House of Representatives to approve the $100 million in aid for the contras.

The Nicaraguan Peasants Union and the war disabled, wounded, and ill [enfermos] committee, which according to communiques distributed in San Jose represent 100,000 Nicaraguans, have described the U.S. aid as "vital for freedom."

The Nicaraguans, members of ARDE, led by Commander Eden Pastora, have told Reagan that the U.S. aid is essential for the security of the countries of the continent that "feel threatened because of the excessive Cuban-Soviet influence on the Latin American mainland."

Also, the opponents of the Managua regime have urged the members of the U.S. House of Representatives to approve the aid requested by the head of the U.S. executive branch. It is the only way to prevent "the consolidation of a new catastrophe, like Cuba has been, for all Americans."

To justify their request, the peasant, war disabled, and anti-Sandinist youth leaders recalled that ARDE's leadership has made 16 calls for talks with the Sandinist government. These calls, they added, "have always been answered with more escalations of violence," and they are convinced that "the only alternative, to prove their love of freedom, is the way of arms."

BRIEFS

SOVIET GRAIN DONATION -- The USSR donates 500,000 tons of flour per year to Nicaragua, Henry Montano, national general director for foodstuffs of the Interior Trade Ministry, has reported. He indicated that this year the USSR will also send 25,000 tons of rice to Nicaragua, the first 10 tons of which are due to arrive in late April. [Summary] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Apr 86 PA]

SUGAR SHIPMENT FOR USSR -- Rivas -- The Soviet merchant vessel October Revolution leaves from the port of San Juan del Sur today loaded with 10.500 tons of sugar produced in the Benjamin Zeledon Sugar Mill in Rivas. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 86 PA]

BULGARIAN DONATION -- Yesterday 5,000 tons of wheat and 8.000 tires of different sizes arrived at the port of Corinto as a donation from the people of Bulgaria to the people of Nicaragua. Other donations consisting of 4,000 tons of powdered milk and butter were received as part of the world food program for the Sandinist revolution. [Excerpt] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Apr 86 p 3B PA]

RODRIGUEZ CLOSES FIRST NATIONAL EXPORTS MEETING

FL142000 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] The words of Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez at the closing session of the first national exports meeting of the ministry of the Steelworking Industry can be described as significant because they reaffirm that the path followed in the rapprochement of the producers, suppliers, and sellers is the way to success in the export program.

[Begin recording] We are re-exporters of the petroleum which we import, which we conserve, and naturally the drop in the value of the dollar also affects us. Thus we have a series of phenonoma that affect our national economy in its external aspect, and therefore in its entire functioning.

We have to perform better and better, and we can say that we are working better and better. But we are still working less than we must, insufficiently, as has been pointed out in a recent speech familiar to everyone. We have to begin to struggle. All of us have to begin to struggle. If we do not all begin to struggle, we will not advance. Even if everyone does not do it we are all going to take it as our slogan. We have responsibilities to history, this is a country that has won in an epic struggle in a battle with imperialism that has lasted many long years. We were the only ones in Latin America, although we now have the company of Nicaragua.

We have strengthened ourselves militarily in such a way that the most rabid of the imperialists who have achieved power in the past 30 or 40 years -- Reagan -- has to think about it five times before he threatens Cuba with invasions, because he knows what the cost of any invasion would be.

We must never lower our guard so Reagan cannot forget that our guard is raised. We have progressed in ways that our third party congress has made known in numbers, in data, in figures. We have a program that our party and all the workers of our country are debating. It is a program of great perspective; that is, we have future security if we know how to compete. A mechanical interpretation of Marxism would consist of believing that social changes come about automatically under socialism. No, socialism costs blood and tears; it costs extraordinary efforts. Our people are willing to organize it, and all of us leaders have a commitment to history and to our commander in chief. The step we have taken today is a decisive one toward fulfillment of that commitment. Today for that reason we can shout, more convinced than ever: Fatherland or death! [applause] [end recording]

More on Closing Comments

FL142054 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Every worker, every enterprise must work with the greatest efficiency and quality. These words were spoken by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, at the closing session of the first national exports meeting of the Ministry of the Steelworking Industry.

One of the subjects he emphasized in a critical sense was the problem of quality, which is a collective one.

[Begin recording] The spirit of mutual criticism must not disappear. No one has the right to become angry because his problems and deficiencies are pointed out, although he does have the right to refute that criticism and to demonstrate that those difficulties and those deficiencies do not exist. But pointing out deficiencies and struggling for improvement must exist. [end recording]

Later, Carlos Rafael said:

[Begin recording] If the workers do not participate in the entire process, nothing will be achieved. The participation of the workers will not be determined principally by money payments and prizes, the problem of individual conscience must be involved in this, too. We must know that our exports will be better and better to the degree that the totality of national production improves. In a socialist economy, it is very hard for there to be an isolation in which you do not have at least 90 percent of the problems of quality resolved at the national level and are trying to resolve 100 percent of the problems at the export level. [as heard] [end recording]

In another part of his speech, he said:

[Begin recording] Therefore, I wonder which social system can use the participation of the workers as a collective to control quality better than the communist system. Because collective control of quality and the fact that every worker is concerned about quality, is an effort that has an immediate repercussion in the collective process. We have to find a new concept, a new idea, a new principle. I believe this essential. [end recording]

COMMENTARY ON U.S. 'ANTI-LIBYAN CAMPAIGN'

PA142225 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Commentary by Angel Hernandez]

[Text] On the eve of the congressional debate on the granting of $100 million to the villains attacking Nicaragua, the U.S. Government is increasing its anti-Libyan campaign with the intention of not only destabilizing the transformation process headed by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, but also encouraging exaggerated patriotism and chauvinism among the different sectors of American opinion. The goal of this double-dealing is to achieve majority support for the aggressions and Reagan's uncontrollable desire for combat readiness, even at the expense of sacrificing the poorest sectors in the United States, who see their social security funds cut while military expenditures are increased and counterrevolutionaries in every corner of the world receive aid.

In a recent speech, the Yankee President did not hesitate to insult Libya, and he again tried to blame that country for the latest terrorist actions in Western Europe. This topic, insistently repeated, is a fact of pressure that aims directly at the American people's feelings, and tries to kindle excessive patriotism and chauvinism as elements that will promote national support for the White House's aggressive power. It is an ancient tactic that Adolf Hitler, in his time, did not fail to use to promote, for example, the brutal invasion of Poland.

According to reports by the U.S. television network ABC, Reagan has already approved a new aggressive plan against Libya and has ordered the deployment of the aircraft carriers Coral Sea and America to Libya's coast. The Coral Sea was in a Spanish port, and the America was en route to Cannes on the French coast. The Coral Sea was scheduled to return to the United States shortly. Meanwhile, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL has reported that the United States views as new targets for possible attacks on Libya, its missile bases and its missile and combat plane storage facilities located at the north African nation's airports.

A ranking White House official told the newspaper that Reagan has not ruled out bombing Libya's oil and transportation industries. Meanwhile, a Pentagon official added that the U.S. Marines have a special flotilla prepared to attack Libyan targets if the U.S. President so orders.

The real reason behind the Yankee President's desire to relive the days of conflict in the Gulf of Sidra is because of Libya's undeviating position regarding aid to liberation movements and to Washington's need to create conflicts which, twisted by brutal imperialist propaganda, present the United States as a victim of international terrorism, and therefore justifies its arms buildup and its intentions to dominate the entire world. Therefore, it would not come as a surprise if in the next few days the Mediterranean again becomes -- thanks to the White House -- the site of renewed tension, even when these adventures threaten the security of Washington's own allies in that geographical region.

U.S. DECISION TO CONTINUE NUCLEAR TESTS VIEWED

PA150053 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Commentary by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The White House press secretary has officially confirmed that Washington does not have the slightest intention of dropping its nuclear testing program, which it considers essential to the maintenance of the country's leadership in atomic power. This is the equivalent of stating that Ronald Reagan will continue with his warmongering plan on earth as well as in space, and that his government's only concern is to achieve the impossible: military supremacy over the USSR and the entire socialist bloc.

The White House announcement was made in the midst of a wave of protests in the United States and abroad, unleashed as a result of the U.S. nuclear test last Thursday. The U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES and Senators Edward Markey, a Democrat, and Republican Mark Hatfield agreed that continuing the nuclear tests demonstrates the Reagan administration's irresponsibility in regard to denuclearization and limiting the arms race. Similar attitudes have been adopted by the media, and political and social personalities in Western Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America, who see in these tests the real danger of an international escalation of war in a world drowned by a violent economic crisis.

The Soviet Union, which since last August has implemented a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, gave the United States several opportunities to show its goodwill in this regard. After the Yankee nuclear test last Thursday, the USSR officially announced that it no longer is committed to the moratorium it had implemented up to that time, even though it is willing to discuss with Washington an immediate end to this kind of exercise, which is quite dangerous in every respect.

BRAVO WELCOMES SOVIET, GDR DELEGATIONS

FL141818 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Flavio Bravo, Central Committee member and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has welcomed at Jose Marti International Airport the Soviet and GDR delegations which attended the IPU meeting in Mexico City. The Soviet delegation is headed by Avgust Voss, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the East German delegation is headed by Dr Eberhard Poppe, vice president of that sister country's interparliamentary group. During their brief stay in our country, the visitors will tour Havana's historic area.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PERU'S GARCIA ADDRESSES ALADI MEETING

FA141522 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0212 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Speech by President Alan Garcia to an ALADI meeting in Montevideo on 11 April -- recorded, monitored in progress]

[Text] ...and historical limitations of our economies. Some believe that in the future it will be possible to make a living from raw material exports. Others believe it is possible to defend the national industries under the banners of nationalism and independence, without realizing that only a well-integrated industry with a broader market can be successful in the future. Therefore, today we are facing the worsening of all of these problems and our only legacy has been a foreign debt that threatens the level of our salaries and the prices of the products we consume with more taxes and reserves, all of which can only have one reply. However, the experience we must gain from all of this is that our own interests and the interests of those who divide us, force us to accept bilateral transactions, and seduce us with trumpeted announcements of new financial proposals -- that are only more of the same thing and to which we must not yield -- is what keeps us divided and prevents our unity.

What can we do now to answer the question: Where is our Latin America heading or going? I am here to say that following the example of the 1924 ideology, which is one of the many concepts that were in vogue at that time and which reflects the many efforts for integration and a continental response, I am here to say that based on those historical examples we should make up our minds to act and move. We must make continental nationalism a reality. We have failed to do so. However, this cannot be done solely through manufacturing strategies, commercial exchange, and technological demands because in the long run the only loser in the endless argument of who wins and who loses is Latin America.

I have seen and I have been present at many technocratic meetings where what each one must produce, how, and when is discussed in detail. From all of this, we have only harvested a loss of time and discouraging setbacks. Who benefits from this delay? Who is or who are Latin America's enemies, and consequently who are the enemies of the Latin American democracy and peoples? Who is each one of us helping with our bilateral transactions and our selfish hope that we will move forward by ourselves? I am sure that those who will follow us will look back, perhaps ironically, at those of us who, although stating the contrary, continued to act as if we did not realize that we could not continue to be isolated and that our only path was to seek our unity. We must not seek our unity through endless negotiations alone, but through decisions and actions in view of the political situations we must confront.

We must get together, we must join desires and capabilities, and we must put them together even at the risk of failure. They must be put together. The speculative calculation that things must be done in a way that they cannot fail only shows the fear of those who do not believe in doing anything. Things must be done, even if they are not perfect. We must start somewhere. We have begun. We have initiated throughout Latin America a formidable and promising effort toward this awareness with the Contadora Group's process. The four countries that initially created the group were reinforced with the support given by other Latin American countries.

However, we have faced intransigency, a lack of understanding, and distrust. We have had to face the fact that our own words and actions have been distorted by the negative press that sometimes tries to prevent substantial messages from reaching the peoples' conscience. We have realized -- disheartened at times -- that the efforts became stagnant. However, the fact that we stayed together kept things going. We must praise the determination of the Latin American leaders who have kept their goals throughout the years without retreating.

Today President Sanguinetti and I once again agreed to send a message -- a public letter whose contents will be known after it has been sent, to the Central American presidents to urge them to show the responsibility that all of Latin America demands from them. We have agreed to this because it is publicly and internationally known that at the latest meeting in Panama a lengthy process perhaps arrived at a point of no return, at a dead end, and possibly the gradual and definite fading of the expectations that for the first time all of Latin America would show its self-determination concerning a political issue and would come between a small country and a great colossus. Definitely, all of this effort cannot be lost or given up.

Therefore, imbued with the Montevideo spirit, today we sent a message to the five Central American presidents to demand from them on behalf of Latin America that the mandate of these past months and the desires of Latin Americans not be evaded. We will have to start again and make a new effort, because we do not give up our right to be Latin Americans, and because the intransigency and fears of some are not going to make us forget that we have a fundamental mandate that has already been undertaken by the Contadora Group.

If this effort fails it will constitute proof for the unbelieving, for those who refuse to listen, and for those who are afraid. It will be proof that we do not have to get underway, that we must maintain the unity of the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the Central American countries, and that we must conclude the negotiations and preparations of the Central American peace document. We must conclude the process -- whatever it costs -- because this process is the prior step to another greater, large-scale, truly historical process: the uniting of our wills to solve the serious foreign debt problem that compounds all of the injustices our people have experienced.

That is why today we agreed with Julio Maria Sanguinetti to make a new effort, an effort deserving of the spirit of Montevideo with determination and passion because we can neither fail nor abandon the goals of the Contadora Group. As a fundamental objective of integration, we call for the establishing of our nations' common identity. We have decided to make the forefathers of integration and national struggles a common heritage. Why shouldn't Artigas also be ours? Why shouldn't kids view all the heroes and forefathers of this country as Peruvians? Why should we think heroism has a specific nationality on our continent? Why shouldn't we view our heroes as heroes of the entire continent?

Today when I entered Government House I heard the best reception possible: the voice of children singing Peru's national anthem. They were children from the Republica de Peru school. They sang that song better, perhaps, than many Peruvians. This is important. Let's us hope that in Peru we will be able to hear the music -- with operatic intonations -- of the Uruguayan national anthem. Let's hope that Peru's young people have the capability to realize that America is one single nation. This is why we have signed an agreement that we will view our heroes and forefathers as a common heritage, that we will view our caudillos as our common heritage, and that even our contradictions -- the contradiction between the cities and the rural areas, and the contradictory interpretations of history -- are common to both nations.

We must feel like that old caudillo Uribe who said that whoever attacks one of our nations is attacking the entire continent. We must say what was said in 1847, and we must take the message of Segovia from Sandino who said that whoever attacks a Latin American country attacks flesh of our own flesh and we must respond. We must not only respond with condemnation and documents, but we must also actively respond so that our response will have the weight of sanction and so that it will be felt that as a continent we have the strength of action. We must unite our cultures and understand them as a single culture. We must link our economies, our markets, and our productive capacities. We already know all of this. But politically speaking, before the great models of technological integration are accomplished, we must unite our decisions to guarantee our sovereignty and independence.

I must express a brief thought to this audience which, professionally and vocationally, is the one most indicated. Good intentions and great decisions have been frequent on the continent. Nevertheless, we have followed what could be described as traditional paths, weak paths of integration. We have wanted to repeat different histories by following those same paths. We wanted to have free trade zones, common markets, and industrial planning. Perhaps, within those plans, the best that has been achieved has been the subregional Andean Group, which also sought to integrate industrial capacity. We have a commitment to do this, and we have placed at the service of the Andean Group all the force -- the large or small political and economic forces that Peru might have -- because it is another attempt, the most advanced attempt that cannot be turned back, that must not cease to exist. I would feel, at least during my administration, that Peru was guilty of aggression against Latin America if it did not do everything possible to maintain in force the strong, and growing Andean Group, as we also want to maintain the ALADI.

However, we believe that integration must be achieved through urgent need and through an immediate reply to the urgency. We cannot continue with gradual, traditional models that were successful in other continents but have no reason to be successful in ours. We believe that there are some crucial issues and fundamental contradictions in Latin America's political life, and that there are some decisions that demand an immediate reply before the great models of integration. How can we integrate our industries in crisis and recession? How can we integrate our populations without patience? How can we integrate our future if it involves problems that we have not solved? One of those problems, for example, is the foreign debt, which continues to mericlessly pressure our economies. How can we speak of integration if we have not made an integrationist decision because if we had, we would have resolved the most outstanding problems that exist in our political history.

Our proposal is that rather than through models or copies, integration be carried out through great decisions. This is the hour for great decisions, which are the ones that make history. The integration of the great decisions should ease the historic pressures that our people suffer and lay the foundations so that afterward our economies will draw together.

One of the first topics that must be resolved is the foreign debt. I will tirelessly repeat that it is the fundamental and historic issue that threatens to become more negatively important in our economies and societies. Some see that others are more involved and distressed by the topic of the debt, but being relatively more free of that grave problem does not mean that almost inertially it might not become more negative in the future.

I have said that the foreign debt is a homogeneous issue for all our countries and economies. Now we have the result: being debtors after being exporters and industrialists. The foreign debt is a political issue and it demands a political response and not an economic response of bilateral transactions, refinancing, or renegotiation.

Why do we continue to deceive ourselves by leaving to the immediate future what must be given a reply now? The foreign debt is a political, human, and social problem. Behind its cold figures are urgent problems of hunger, lack of industrialization, a halt to development, and an inability to resolve problems.

What are we Latin Americans going to do in view of the foreign debt? How are we going to resolve the foreign debt if we let the Contadora process regress? From here, with President Sanguinetti, we urge the Latin American rulers to further commit themselves so that this effort will not fail, so that there will be no intervention, so that there will be no support for insurrectional groups, so that the free determination of peoples will be respected, so that our continent -- Central America -- will not be turned into a testing ground and area of limited struggle for the big powers. We must make sure that the Contadora Document is successful so that with that guarantee we can launch ourselves into the great problem of the debt, launch ourselves with a sense of spirit and adventure, positively and without fear. There are costs that must be paid to respond to the grave debt problem, bit they are momentary costs, lower than the high costs we will pay if we do not provide a solution, an answer to that problem.

The second issue is that of trade, which at this time diverts to third countries what should be a more harmonious relationship in our production development. I ask myself: What have we really done aside from urgently declaring ourselves for compensated trade in our region and for intraregional trade? What have we done to complement our production and reorient its trade? What have we done to use our purchasing capacity to open new markets and to defend existing markets? I think that, on the contrary, after an encouraging takeoff of growth of intraregional trade, we now watch passively as it drops and how in a few years we have opened our economies to the traditional industrial markets as a result of which their protectionism now increasingly affects our economy. We must make a decision.

Peru's commitment at this time is to reorient our trade in order to make our production complementary with the other Latin American countries and to organize our purchasing capacity to effectively and jointly respond to those that prevent our products' access to their markets. An essential issue arises here. Just as we Peruvians struggle against the IMF and its ideas; just as we reject the doctrine imposed on our countries, the doctrine of retraction, recession, and indebtedness; just as we do not believe in the use of a single world currency because regardless of where we stand politically, even those who proclaim to be conservatives, we would have to admit that it is the most dramatic injustice of the world monetary order for a single country to be the source of liquidity for the entire world. Just as we struggle on the foreign debt issue, we have to struggle against a second great adversary of our integration and our development, and that is the GATT.

GATT has functioned due to what we in Peru call the law of the funnel. It applies restrictions on those of us who do not have economic power and opens possibilities for those who are the owners of the world and its trade. Markets are restricted and closed to use because we have protected our industrial development, because we have tax refunds for exporters. Markets are closed to textile products. Markets are closed to bottled and canned products. On the other hand, they open, through the force of low prices, which is the equivalent of the force of their cannons, our markets to their agricultural and livestock products thanks to subsidies that are not prohibited by that legislation.

We have to seek equivalency in world trade and achieve respect for our condition due to a differential right that is not theirs. There are no rights in equality. There are rights in each particular time of our societies. They, developed and enjoying well-being, do not have the right that we have to the opening of opportunities for our development because the equal and common right of human beings is that all have the same well-being and the same possibility.

Those of us who have less development and those of us who suffer from the asymmetry of world trade have greater right to make our voice be heard and to have the trade and tariff agreements respected. That is why, this morning with President Sanguinetti, instead of signing a generalized agreement, we wanted to specifically discuss what we are going to do so that this visit, in addition to awakening brotherhood and affection between Uruguay and Peru, will also have a concrete result. We discussed what we should do, whether to leave to subsequent commissions the development of our trade or to directly face as rulers the problems and at least propose concrete examples that will serve as a basis for the expansion of our bilateral trade? As a result, we discussed, not great declarations, but in the most ordinary and common way, livestock problems, specific economic problems. I want for Peru the repopulation of the Andes with wool-bearing livestock and food stock. Uruguay has it. On the other hand, we have petroleum and copper that are not traded with Uruguay. We have a surplus of iron in Peru just as there is a surplus in the number of head of wool-bearing livestock here.

This morning we took the first step by establishing trade links that will integrate those products. I would not have been happy if I left Uruguay leaving only good memories or what you, Mr President, call integrationist poetry. Integration must also be achieved on the basis of great decisions such as that of the debt or on the basis of small decisions such as the wool-bearing livestock and petroleum. However, the important thing is to make a decision. It might be that they are not the most perfect or exact, but I would not have been happy to leave Uruguay without leaving something that symbolizes that it is possible, that we are capable.

Therefore, we have to integrate our trade and our economies, and we must do so in the forthcoming struggle in the GATT. For this purpose, Uruguay and Peru are proposing and calling for a prior meeting of SELA to discuss those topics and the price of the raw materials and basic products so that we will go with a Latin American consensus to such a meeting that so many times has frustrated our expectations. We have to integrate our economies with little things and with the trade agreement that we signed with Uruguay this morning.

We must make a decision -- and that is Peru's commitment -- to reorient our economies among us. Perhaps this will mean a momentary loss. Perhaps some will ask: Why should we buy from Uruguay at a price that is $2, $5 or $10 higher? Because that is the cost of integration.

I act as a Latin American ruler to make my people understand that they must pay for their destiny and their future. I cannot look at just the immediate need and say that I am going to buy cheaper powdered milk from France or New Zealand because it is $20 cheaper than the price per ton that Uruguay sells us. I cannot just look at immediate needs and demagogically tell my people and the urban masses -- that many times subordinate and dominate their politicians -- that I am going to buy French or New Zealand meat because it is cheaper than what Uruguay can sell us. That would mean a betrayal of the integrationist spirit. In the last few years we have lost billions of dollars in debts, in interest rates, we have lost tens of billions paying inflated prices for technology. Why can we not lose $20 a ton so Uruguay can have a market for its surplus meat, its wool-bearing livestock, and milk if in exchange we will have much more integrated economies in the future?

Each of us must also pay for the future of the brother next to us. That is what we rulers of Latin America do not understand. We complain about GATT. We speak ill of all the monetary and trade systems, but in practice we sometime succumb to the immediate needs of those who demand lower prices and then we forget that perhaps by paying slightly higher prices we encourage real integration of our economies because we will create not only gratitude but, in production, what must be the establishment of a more integrated and productive America.

That is why I believe we must act. Integration must be carried out on the basis of decisions. Someone asks me: Why should we pay more for milk, for livestock or meat? I have a responsibility as a leader. I was not elected in Peru solely to lower prices in the first year of my administration. I was elected to do something historic, and I expect and demand from all rulers that same historic concept. We are betting on what might be more costly in the immediate future but it is what will lead to the achievement of something that is not the cheapest but the greatest thing in history and that is integration.

For this reason, we must also support what we call balance of payments or commercial balance. We have spoken much about procedures or institutions to support our reserves, yet we do not dare strengthen the institutions that, as the Andean Reserve Fund, have demonstrated in Latin America that they are more vigorous and stronger than the IMF itself; and this without the IMF's terms imposed on our economies for world political reasons.

I met with President Raul Alfonsin a few days ago. We agreed to develop, with Argentina or with the Andean Reserve Fund, a mechanism to support our balance of payments to make our continental entity stronger. For this, we must create a currency of Latin American account unit to free our trade from its dependency on U.S. currency. Since its linkage to gold was ended in the 1970's, this currency has no reason to continue enjoying the privilege of being a world currency.

It is indispensable to broaden current facilities for financing of intraregional commerce, encourage trade, and prevent the intervention of foreign banks that profit from our payments. I feel that the time has arrived to assume integration as a process in agreement with our peoples' political and economic life, turn it into a myth for the multitudes, to make the university masses, the illusioned youths, the working masses, and also the peasants speak about and feel integration as a requirement through education by our politicians.

They long for justice. It is our duty to make them understand that integration is their best instrument. For this, we will think big, we will think generously and with a vision of the future.

For dozens of years, our peoples have demanded more and more unity, and we cannot disappoint them. For this, speaking about democracy, I reiterate that we can do it only by speaking about integration. If the forerunners of our independence served their fatherland as they did America, we could turn this vision into a reality.

I must confess that I am sometimes discouraged to see that our America, which has become associated with the Contadora Group in the defense of its political sovereignty, still has not been able to develop a system to ensure a growing flow of goods, services, capital and even people. Latin America identified with Argentina in the Malvinas war and, more recently, the Contadora Group.

We still, however, require a strong economic impetus and will. Within this perspective, I must stress the important role as catalyst for a common awareness played by the Cartagena consensus. Through this mechanism, we, in the region's most deeply indebted countries, have taken up a common stance in the defense of our sovereign rights for our development. Peru's stance of allocated only 10 percent of our export revenues to debt servicing occurs in the Cartagena Consensus' principles and recommendations. This is another clear example of a political integration policy in the most serious economic problem.

I also want to say that the adversaries of our integration and our determination disseminate negative and improper reports about the Peruvian decision. We have not fallen into any passionate fit. We do know, however, that during our history a path has been imposed on us by the pressure of those who could apply it. We now say that our debt liabilities offer the best pressure point we have ever had in our history. And we must apply it. Otherwise, we will take a lot and negotiate a lot, but we can be sure, as in the past 50 years, that the future will tell us where we were led by our refusal to apply the pressure that we had at our disposal.

Every compelling action should be met with a compelling reaction. This is the only way we will make ourselves respected. The rationality of the world financial system is the rationality of profit. This can be understood and it is its logic. This cannot be morally condemned. It must be economically resisted. We cannot give only romantic answers to the debt. We should not expect the problems of the debt to correct themselves. Bank accounts do not correct themselves. The anonymous depositors' desire for interest does not correct itself either. A political answer is necessary and this depends on our ability to apply pressure. I wonder what would have happened had Latin America years ago allocated a large amount of its exports to the payment of the debt, if such important countries as Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico had taken the exemplary step that we of the smaller and less economically powerful countries expected.

I am sure the world would have understood that Latin America had awakened and the sleeping giant had risen. I am sure the interest would not have amounted to so much as it does now and the terms would not be so pressing, nor would there be an IMF to make us pass through the ring of terms. I am sure the situation would be different. This is what we have sought. Peru's determination means taking some risks. Of course, we must take them. Only by taking risks in history made. To gamble with the certainty of a winner is not to make history. It is to make oneself a little subject to circumstances. We are subject to circumstances. We have been driven into situations. Our decision does not mean that we have attained absolute freedom. We are also dominated. But we say what we want to do. I am sure we will do it. Even if we cannot achieve it immediately, I am sure time and perseverance will help us. Time works for Latin America and its history. Time prods us toward unity. Time will show we were right, as it showed those who participated in our process of independence.

I cannot conclude, Mr President, without expressing a specific hope, also related to a percentage. I hope that the general round of negotiations that this organization has just opened can be seen as a bet for the future of integration. Perhaps it will be proposed in this round of negotiations that its results adopt the necessary mechanisms so that, before the end of this decade, the ALADI member countries succeed in making at least 40 percent of their imports be from the region.

I would also ask the association's secretary to make a study about the measures that should be taken for this goal, so at the end of the decade 40 percent of our imports come from Latin America. In this way, we will be able to overcome the deficit and succeed in making our integration process as promising as the ties we have established in Contadora and Cartagena. Mr President, upon visiting this important institution, I have reiterated the importance that integration clears its way little by little for the Peruvian president due to his political ideology and for our people.

It is up to us to encourage those who work as representatives in this institution to strengthen the integration process on crucial matters.

With these purposes and proposals, which are not the result of a circumstantial need or an immediate need for support for Peru, but result from a full-fledged philosophy of justice based on political and economic emancipation of integration, I hail the permanent representatives to this organization. And through them, I hail their governments, friendly governments, reiterating and ratifying our identification with the unchanging principles of integration of the greater homeland and our decision as Peruvians to devote ourselves entirely, in our actions and words, to the service of the cause that the liberators legated to us as a message and that history itself demands from us to rescue our peoples for justice and the future. Thank you. [applause]

GOVERNMENT ISSUES RESPONSE TO LIBYA CONFLICT

Itamaraty Statement

PY152234 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2223 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] This evening Itamaraty disclosed the Brazilian Government's official stance regarding the U.S.-Libyan conflict. The note stated: The Brazilian Government is seriously concerned about the developments in the Mediterranean area. Brazil has always advocated the need to solve international conflicts through peaceful means. The international community has the adequate legal tools and political forums to handle controversies. True and lasting peace can only be based on the solid ground of law and diplomacy. Therefore, the Brazilian Government regrets the use of violence, which is not the appropriate means to solve disagreements. The growing spiral of mutual attacks to which the crisis in the Mediterranean zone may lead will have serious consequences for international coexistence. The Brazilian Government voices its hopes that moderation and equilibrium will prevail in the conflict between the United States and Libya and that the cause of peace will be preserved and the lives of innocent people spared.

Legislators Comment

PY160107 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2240 GMT 15 Apr 86

[From the Congressional Report]

[Excerpt] Speaking for the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] leadership, Deputy Maurilio Ferreira Lima reasserted the Brazilian Government's position regarding the conflict between the United States and Libya by repudiating the use of force to solve international issues. The legislator noted that Brazil upholds the noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries and that the United Nations is the proper forum to solve disputes.

Speaking for the PDT [Democratic Workers Party], Deputy Jacques d'Ornella expressed his party's indignation over the belligerent U.S. action which he believes poses a threat to world peace. The PDT deputy expressed solidarity with the Libyan people by noting that nothing justifies the bombing of civilian populations.

Speaking for the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], Deputy Roberto Jefferson said that the problem between Reagan and Al-Qadhdhafi cannot continue because the well-being of the entire human race is at stake. The legislator condemned the U.S. attitude and criticized Libyan actions by noting that although the belligerent U.S. action is not justified, neither is the terrorist policy promoted by Libya.

Leader of the Comunist Party of Brazil (Aroldo Lima) protested the U.S. military attack against Libyaa and the British Government's support for this belligerent action by noting that the Brazilian Government must express its support for the principle of self-determination of all peoples and call its ambassador to the United States for consultations. Commenting on the U.S. attack against Libya, Deputy Aldo Arantes urged the Brazilian Government to repudiate this military aggression and reassert its support for the principle of nonintervention and the self-determination of nations.

Jacques d'Ornella repudiated the U.S. attack against Libya and suggested that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry should request the recall of its ambassador to Washington as well as start negotiations for the return of the U.S. Embassy [as heard] to its country. Joao (Marquez) expressed his hope that the Brazilian Government will publicly condemn the U.S. aggression against Libya by requesting the United Nations to make a decision in this regard. In keeping with his position as president of the Brazilian-Arab Friendship Cooperation League, Aroldo Sanford, repudiated the attack perpetrated by U.S. forces against Libya.

Moreover, Deputy Cristina Tavares condemned the U.S. attack against Libya and appealed to the Brazilian Government to immediately express its protest against the arrogant attitude of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. According to the deputy, the international situation is quite serious and the U.S. offensive in reprisal for the Libyan bombing may be the beginning of world war III which will certainly lead to a holocaust.

The bombing of Tripoli and Bengazi in Libya which was perpetrated last night by the U.S. military forces was repudiated today in a vehement speech by Senator Fabio Lucena. After noting that he was speaking for himself, for the people of Amazonas and for the majority of Brazilians, Fabio Lucena described the U.S. bombing against Libya as an inhuman, cruel and genocidal act.

Senator Lucena believes that the fact that the chief of the Libyan Government, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, is an admitted terrorist does not justify the actions promoted by U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Fabio Lucena also regretted the attitude adopted by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for allowing U.S. planes to lift off from British territory to attack Libya.

The speech delivered by Senator Jamil Haddad Adad was along the same line. Speaking for the Brazilian Socialist Party, Senator Haddad condemned the attitude adopted by both Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. Senator Fabio Lucena warned that the U.S. attitude may be the fuse needed to start a nuclear war in which the entire human race will be sacrificed. He also noted that he is confident that President Jose Sarney's administration will severly condemn the belligerent U.S. actions.

Brazilians in Tripoli Uninjured

PY152246 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2220 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] The U.S. attacks on Tripoli yesterday and this afternoon [as heard] did not affect any of the 30 Brazilian citizens living in that city. This information was disclosed by Brazilian Ambassador to Libya Tarcisio Mariano da Rocha during a telephone call today. He said that the building where the Brazilian Embassy is located is not in the area that the United States bombed and that no decision has been made so far to evacuate the Brazilians living in Tripoli.

[Begin Da Rocha recording] It is a small community of approximately 30 people, including the Brazilians assigned to the embassy. The embassy is ok. nothing happened around the embassy. [end recording]

LEADERS COMMENT ON U.S. AIR STRIKE IN LIBYA

Garcia on U.S. 'Arrogance'

PY151447 Paris AFP in Spanish 1433 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Peruvian President Alan Garcia has stated that the U.S. attack on Libya is an attitude born out of arrogance. According to the Lima newspaper HOY, Garcia last night said: I believe that this is the arrogance of military technology. The Peruvian Government has not yet officially reacted to the conflictive Libyan situation.

Wagner Discusses Response

PY151926 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Interview with Peruvian Foreign Minister Alan Wagner by Denis Vargas Marin during the "Ampliacion de Noticias" program]

[Vargas Marin] Good morning, friends. In the biggest air raid since the Vietnam war, 33 U.S. bombers under the cover of night on 14 April launched a [words indistinct] against Libya, despite the opposition from its European allies. The U.S. planes thus seriously endangered the Libyan people by attacking Tripoli and Benghazi. International commentators are saying that world peace is at stake. We will now talk about this subject with Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner. Good morning, Dr Allan Wagner.

[Wagner] Good morning, Denis. Nice to talk to you.

[Vargas Marin] Nice to talk to you, Dr Wagner. First we would like to know the Peruvian position toward this new U.S. attack against Libya.

[Wagner] As you know, we strictly abide by the principles of international law, which are outlined in the UN Charter. The UN Charter proscribes the use of force or the threat to use force in international relations, and advocates the peaceful settlement of conflicts. Therefore, we cannot support any measure that opposes these principles; that is, we believe that any such action violated international law and certainly harms coexistence and world peace and security. And when I say any measure, I am not only referring to the fact that the United States is taking the law into its own hands, but also to the acts of state terrorism that some countries are performing.

In the specific case of Libya, it is common knowledge that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi announced that he would take revenge because of the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Gulf of Sidra through terrorist actions in several places of the world. Therefore, terrorism is an international crime which, despite any justification, remains a crime. Violence cannot be met with violence, but by resorting to international law. We believe that the path should not be to take the law into one's own hands, but to resort to the existing international forums, like the UN Security Council, to settle this type of situation. The UN Security Council has powers to efficiently deal with any international situation.

For countries like Peru, which is relatively small at the world level, it is essential to permanently uphold international law, proscribing the use of force or the threat to use force in international relations, and to advocate the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

[Vargas Marin] Dr Wagner, will an official comminque be issued on the Peruvian position which you have just outlined in disagreement with this type of attack, because violence cannot be met with violence?

[Wagner] Yes, of course. We are analyzing the events and we will issue a statement in due time.

[Unidentified reporter] Good morning, Dr Wagner. Yugoslavia has called for a special meeting of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movment in New Delhi to analyze the situation in the wake of the U.S. raid on two Libyan cities. Will Peru attend this meeting? It has also been said that a document that condemns the United States and that conveys full support for Libya is under preparation.

[Wagner] Well, it is clear that Peru will attend any meeting called to analyze this subject. I believe the information you are referring to may have some inaccuracies. The Coordinating Bureau of the nonaligned countries is now meeting in New Delhi. Yugoslavia must be asking that the subject be considered at the ongoing Coordinating Bureau meeting. It is presided over by Deputy Foreign Minister (Hoover Villand). Our delegation also includes our ambassador to the United Nations. Therefore, we will maintain close contact with our delegation to see how the issue will be analyzed at the meeting. Obviously, the instructions that I will give will be in agreement with what I have just said; that is, our position will remain faithful to our principles.

[Reporter] Changing subjects, Mr Minister, yesterday Peru deposited $30 million, as the nation's president had announced, in payment of interest on its foreign debt. With your vision on the foreign area and making a political analysis, what could you say about this?

[Wagner] Well, Minister Alva Castro has made some very important and detailed statements on what happened yesterday at the IMF directorate. It is important to stress the fact that the countries that are members of the IMF directorate have supported the Peruvian position, recognizing that a developing country like Peru is unable to pay more than what its development needs permit. So, I think this measure taken yesterday by the IMF directorate is a step forward, although it does not guarantee that Peru could not in the future be declared ineligible by the Directorate. We will see what happens later, but I believe that we have made progress on the international stage, with firm steps that are vindicating the Peruvian position.

[Vargas Marin] Well, Dr Allan Wagner, we thank you for participating in Ampliacion de Noticias, as you always do.

[Wagner] It was my pleasure. I'll see you.

Foreign Ministry Protest

PY160206 Paris AFP in Spanish 0140 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Peru tonight issued its official protest against the air raid that the United States launched against Libya last night on the grounds that it goes against the rules and regulations for international coexistence. The Peruvian Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning all forms of terrorism irrespective of perpetrators and motives. The statement expressly stated that it refers to the attack which U.S. military planes carried out last night against Libyan cities and facilities, after the United States accused that country of carrying out terrorist attacks. The statement added that Peru rejects the actions of any state that strays from the rules and regulations for international coexistence established in the multilateral international system represented by the United Nations, which is the only means to ensure civilized coexistence between the states.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT MONGE COMMENTS ON U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

PA160225 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez described Ronald Reagan's decision to bomb the Libyan capital yesterday as serious. He refused to state if Reagan did the right thing or not, but said that although it is not known if the European nations will support him, it was a sovereign decision.

It is the president's opinion that Reagan must decide if this is the best method to erradicate terrorism. President Monge said that the bombing of Libya is another element of tension, and everyone should be alert to prevent greater consequences. He said that Costa Rica is definitely against terrorism, and that every country -- according to its possibilities and means -- should try to erradicate it. In this regard Monge said that the U.S. attack damaged terrorist bases and military installations, according to reports broadcast from Libya. The United States and any other country has the right to defend itself from this danger, President Monge said.

President Monge pointed out that he trusts the United States will not attack Nicaragua. He said that Washington has said on many occasions that it is not planning to send U.S. troops to Nicaragua. Finally, Monge Alvarez said that he does not believe the world is on the verge of a third world war.

EL SALVADOR

VICE PRESIDENT VIEWS U.S. BLOW TO TERRORISM

PA152227 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Interview with Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, vice president and foreign minister, by Rosi Castillo on 15 April; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Castillo Claramount] Look, there is no doubt that this action [U.S. attack on Libya] has left its mark throughout the world; it has evidently left its mark on us as well. Basically, we are trying to conciliate a war action of this nature with an action that can be argued as punitive against the Libyan Government of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, which has clearly -- and according to world public opinion and to news services from around the world -- in the past few years been a bastion for terrorism at the international level; a government that has promoted and is promoting terrorism as a new war strategy in the world. I am not saying this lightly. We only need to listen to and review the statements of Al-Qadhdhafi himself, who has threatened and claimed responsibility for terrorist acts that have rocked the world. Let us not forget the massacres at the Rome airport, that is the Leonardo Da Vinci Airport in Fiumicino, and the Vienna airport, where passengers waiting to board their flights were massacred with impunity. Added to this the recent attack on the TWA plane, and the attack that destroyed the Mexicana de Aviacion or Aeromexico, I am not sure, airplane, in which 176 [as heard] persons were killed, and for which Libyan terrorist organizations, sponsored, financed, and politically tolerated by the government of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Libya claimed responsibility. These acts of terrorism, or of harboring terrorism, or supporting terrorism as a new method of war in the world or as a method of subjugating or forcing governments, are condemned by all countries in the world.

So, the U.S. decision claims to be a punitive strike against the sources that generate, tolerate, and further worldwide terrorism. (?We have not been totally rid of terrorism). There are proven ties between Salvadoran terrorist groups and Libya, which includes training Salvadoran terrorist groups in Libya and financing and support for Salvadoran terrorists in Libya. Therefore, even we have been touched by Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi's irresponsible and reckless stance. The U.S. action comes in the midst of all this. To be able to evaluate and assess and then comment on the U.S. action of last night, Salvadoran time, we must review it and understand it within the framework I have mentioned without going into all the details, I mean, within a much broader framework. This is not merely a whim by a superpower over a seemingly weak country -- which in fact it is not. Apparently, the United States also sustained damage during this action. To understand this isutation, there is no doubt [changes thought]...I am not going to condemn or hail it. I am simply making a historical recap of what has happened, and [words indistinct] within that much broader framework which we must use to understand the current events.

[Ros: Castillo] Do you think that this incident could have an impact on Central America?

[Castillo Claramount] Regretfully, that is possible. (?There are) some suspicions. In Honduras, there have been some comments along those lines. Here, in El Salvador, there have been past actions sponsored by the Al-Qadhdhafi government. I wholeheartedly hope that violence and terrorism will not increase in the country, as a result of actions sponsored by that government. Look at this, he [Qadhdhafi] has stated it very clearly. He has said that he is going to wage a terrorist war all over the world, and that everything for him is a military objective, or a terrorist objective. He does not care if this means a hospital, a children's school, the life of an official, or anything. Proof of this is when a bomb is placed inside a plane carrying hundreds of people; we must take into consideration how reckless it is to kill people regardless of who they are. These are the facts in all the incidents facing the world today. [end recording]

HONDURAS

NEW SANDINIST INCURSION, YOUTHS 'BRANDED'

PA151452 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1155 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] We now have an exclusive report from our correspondent Juan Ramon Aguilera Z., on a new Sandinist incursion into Honduran territory that occurred yesterday. EPS troops crossed onto Honduran soil and captured several compatriots. Three Hondurans suffered the humiliation of being branded with the initials FSLN with a marking iron, as if they were animals. Here is a report on this by Juan Ramon Aguilera Z., our correspondent in Choluteca. Go ahead, Aguilera Z. from Choluteca.

[Begin relay] Good morning this is a report from Choluteca for Cadena Audio Video. Once again, Sandinists entered Honduran territory, and marked the initials FSLN on two Hondurans with a hot marking iron.

Yesterday afternoon, a group of well-armed Sandinists entered 1 1/2 km inside Honduran territory, in a village near San Marcos de Colon, specifically in a cattle farm, and using a hot marking iron, engraved the FSLN initials on the innter part of the forearm of two Honduran youths, who are 10 and 13 years old respectively.

The incident caused great surprise, as only in the medieval times were slaves marked.

Ten cattlemen took them to Tegucigalpa to show them to the Armed Forces staff, showing the dreadful situation of our people at the border. Horror prevails in this sector, as never before had humans been marked in the 20th century, as the Sandinists -- who have lost all respect for us -- have done.

AZCONA ON FOREIGN POLICY, REGIONAL ISSUES

PA151637 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Apr 86 pp 8, 9

[Interview with President Jose Azcona Hoyo by "two European reporters" -- date and place not given]

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- "The Sandinists should bug off [no jodan los Sandinistas] and take care of themselves," President Jose Azcona Hoyo said when referring to the reports that the Army is not doing anything to evict the contras from the national territory they are occupying along the border with Nicaragua.

Azcona Hoyo was interviewed by two European reporters. He admitted that he agrees with his predecessor, Roberto Suazo Cordova, concerning foreign policy. Azcona Hoyo emphasized several times that the Central American conflict will be resolved when President Daniel Ortega decides to talk with the opposition. He advised the reporters to convince Ortega that he can save Nicaragua by speaking with the contras.

"He (Ortega) should not be dreaming, thinking that he will be able to consolidate a Marxist revolution in Nicaragua," he warned. The full test of his conversation with the European reporters is as follows:

Reporter: What is the Honduran stand concerning the U.S.-Nicaraguan conflict?

Azcona: We want a political solution to the Nicaraguan conflict. We think that the final decision on this is in the hands of the Nicaraguan Government. It should respect the commitments it has with the OAS, and should give freedom to the Nicaraguan people. We are sure that if the Nicaraguan Government adopts these decisions it will not be difficult to achieve the pacification of Nicaragua. They should talk with the armed opposition as well as the unarmed opposition. They should promise true elections.

Reporter: Would you describe this Honduran position as neutral?

Azcona: I would say that Honduras is neutral, but we always harbor the hope that the Nicaraguan problem will be solved through a democratic solution.

Reporter: It is said that the most recent Contadora meeting was a failure due to the Nicaraguan attitude that seeks a commitment from the United States that it will not continue supporting the contras following the signing of a document. Do you not understand Nicaragua's stand?

Azcona: I believe that Nicaragua should honor its commitment with the OAS, that is, giving full freedom to its people and seeking a solution to the Nicaraguan problem so that it will lead to a truly democratic system. If this should happen, there is nothing the United States can do, and I do not think it would do anything against the Nicaraguan Government.

If they insist on upholding their determination to lead Nicaragua to a totalitarian system, I think the United States will not give up in its endeavor to oust [botar] this government. Why should we calmly think that the United States is afraid that this type of government can continue to grow in the hemisphere until it reaches its own border? Then, in a reaction that might even be considered logical, it will struggle so that this may not happen.

Reporter: But would Honduras be willing to convince the United States not to continue supporting the FDN if Nicaragua fulfills the conditions stipulated in the Contadora Document?

Azcona: The United States supports that position. It has clearly stated: If Nicaragua fulfills the commitment it made to the OAS, which is practically the same as what is being established in the Contadora Document with the addition of calling for a halt to the arms buildup, the reduction of military advisers, etcetera, the United States would accept that situation.

Let the Nicaraguan people decide internally if they agree with the Sandinist system or if they are against that system. However, this should be done in full freedom and not like in the past elections where the FSLN had to win.

Reporter: Now then, I understand that in the United States there are various sectors. Would you as a liberal feel closer to the sector that is opposed to the President, that of the Democratic Party? Are you in favor or against the $100 million for the contras?

Azcona: I think that it is more advisable for Honduras that the $100 million be approved. However, what Honduras thinks at this time is not important. What is important is what will happen if the $100 million is granted or if it is not granted. I do not think President Reagan will stop presssuring Nicaragua because the $100 million is rejected. I think the pressure is going to continue because he has clearly stated this. I repeat: The solution to the Nicaraguan problem is in the hands of the Nicaraguans and no one else.

Reporter: But if it is believed that this pressure could be military and in view of the geographic situation, the aid to the contras would have to pass through Honduras.

Azcona: Not necessarily.

Reporter: Then through where?

Azcona: There are many ways. The latest aid has come from other places. It has not passed through Honduras. There can be flights from any other Central American country or even from the United States.

Reporter: President Daniel Ortega said in a press conference that there is a type of no-man's-land. Do you agree with this?

Azcona: No. We do not accept that. No way. A no-man's land does not exist in Honduras. In Honduras, all the zones are under Honduran sovereignty. That is not true. We reject that. What exists is an extensive zone on the border that is quite uninhabited and through which the counterrevolutionaries enter Nicaragua and cross to Honduras.

It is very hard for Honduras, which does not have a large Army, to guard all of the border which is approximately 700 km long by placing border posts, let us say, every 50 or 100 meters because that falls outside all our economic capacity. We would have to double the number of our troops. Just to guard that border we would need all the Armed Forces that we currently have.

Reporter: Although in the last conflict the exact location of specific contra camps was demonstrated, wouldn't it be possible, through political or military measures, to exert pressure so that at least they will leave?

Azcona: Well, what the contras want is to go to Nicaragua. That is what the contras want. The contras do not want to be here in Honduras. They want to go to Nicaragua and in fact they do go to Nicaragua but return later. As I said, we would have to have a large Army protecting the Sandinists' rearguard. I do not think they are going to protect our rearguard when they consolidate themselves. I do not think they are going to prevent the entrance into Honduras of subversive elements.

Reporter: Then are you denying the reports by former FDN members that there is some cooperation -- even close cooperation -- between the Honduran Army and the contras?

Azcona: That is not true. We know that the contras come in and out of Honduras, but we will not have our Army face a situation like that.

Reporter: Is it also false that the Honduran Army has virtually let the contras take control over a portion of the border area?

Azcona: That is not true.

Reporter: Can you visualize, Mr President, the possibility of peaceful coexistence between two countries with different ideologies, namely, Nicaragua and Honduras?

Azcona: On our part there can be coexistence. I ask you: Is there any place in the world where Marxism has not made attempts to extend its reach?

Reporter: I am from Austria. The so-called Iron Curtain is 60 km from our capital. This does not create border conflicts. Why do we allow others to support a country that is not ours?

Azcona: Perhaps as a result of the level of maturity those countries have attained -- and Hungary, which is peculiar within the Iron Curtain countries -- with a little more humanity, it could be. However, there we have the example of Berlin. Honduras does not have the capacity to receive hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans as refugees. To the extent that the pressure on the Nicaraguan people increases and Nicaragua consolidates itself further, more refugees will come to Honduras. That is a very serious problem for us.

Reporter: For many years, and traditionally, Honduras has been governed by the military. I suppose there are institutions in which the Armed Forces still intervene politically. Do you feel pressured by the military?

Azcona: Absolutely not. There is no pressure. The relations are excellent. What the Armed Forces have done has been in consultation with the Presidency of the Republic.

Reporter: How do you explain that over the past several weeks there were numerous reports on developments in Honduras that originated in the United States, while in Honduras there were only comments and not direct information?

Azcona: We wanted to maintain control over the information so as not to alarm the population. The United States released a letter I sent to President Reagan. That is a way of proceeding over there. We did not want to alarm the population by exaggerating the problems. That is why we appeared on television to explain how everything happened and to say everything was under control. We said we requested help from the United States. That help will have to be requested as often as it is necessary because Honduras does not have many resources to spend on that kind of operation.

Reporter: Would you use the opportunity to get the United States to increase its economic assistance?

Azcona: We will not blackmail the United States. It is clear that they are helping us and will continue to help us. However, we will not take advantage of this situation. We are not offering our territory as a springboard for an invasion against Nicaragua, nor do I believe the United States is planning to invade Nicaragua. If the United States wants to invade Nicaragua there are two beaches it can use for that.

Reporter: What good is it to have U.S. troops in Honduras?

Azcona: I would say the same good it does to have U.S. troops in Spain, or at the naval base in Greece, or in Austria; I do not know if there are any in West Germany. We have treaties with the United States, and besides there are not that many troops here.

Reporter: Was there political tension between Honduras and the United States following the statements made by Secretaries Shultz and Weinberger that Honduras will support the contras?

Azcona: No, there was not a great deal of tension. We did not like the statements very much because there was much truth in them; however, not everything that was said was true. There was no tension.

Reporter: Did your government answer the U.S. request to explain the statements made by an alleged high-ranking government official who reportedly said there were pressures to state there had been an invasion?

Azcona: As far as I am concerned, no one has asked me to explain. Perhaps the press, because I have not been able to identify them. [sentence as published] Perhaps it was a person who identified himself as a high-ranking official without really being one. The United States has not asked me for any explanations. The trouble is that there is a yellow press there, and the press exaggerates any statement made by anyone concerning these issues. Maybe a fool tried to make himself important by saying he was a person close to the president of Honduras. They have neither asked for explanations, nor have I given any.

Reporter: Are there some sectors, such as labor unions and congressmen, claiming the president is not active in politics? It is said that the congress president makes more statements than he. What do you have to say about that?

Azcona: I let the people talk, because this is a democratic country. The president of the Republic is the official voice of the government,and not the foreign minister or the National Congress. Concerning the fact that I do not participate in partisan politicking, I think it is my duty as president of Honduras to be the president of all Hondurans. If I become openly involved in politicking, it would then be said that I am wasting my time by politicking. It is very difficult to please everyone. Of course, I am abreast of what is happening within my party, and I am going to support the candidate of my party. However, I will support my party's candidate without undermining or making use of my power for him to become the president. Meanwhile, I do not think it is the duty of a president to engage in politicking every day.

Reporter: As for the meeting that is being planned in Guatemala, will Honduras present a stand that might be the stand of the entire area for solving the conflict?

Azcona: I think that the position will be the same one that we had at the last Contadora meeting: conciliatory, broad, democratic, liberal; striving to reach a solution to the Central American problem.

Reporter: In other words, you do not think that what Contadora has not been able to reach will not be reached?

Azcona: I think not, because it depends on Nicaragua's position. That is where the problem lies. If Nicaragua wants to reach an understanding among the Nicaraguans... I think that it is very easy for them to achieve it, just as we Honduran are doing. Why are there no contras in Honduras? Why are there no refugees in any country in the world? Why are there no political prisoners? Why do reporters say what they wish in Honduras? Why does television and radio report what they want and no one bothers them? [paragraph as heard]

Reporter: Speaking of political prisoners and missing persons, there was a report by the Army. Do you think that report is satisfactory? What will the government do to investigate the 131 cases plus 8 others that were reported last year, plus a few other cases. There has been a charge regarding the disappearance of a labor leader.

Azcona: It seems as if a labor leader in Bajo Aguan disappeared and later reappeared. In other words, there have not been any missing persons in the past few days. In the other cases, there is a report by a high commission that was appointed by the government. They submitted a report, and we have it here, and the truth is that it does not say much.

It is not too easy to determine, in fact, I do not think that all of those persons have disappeared. Many of those persons must be abroad; it may be that others have disappeared, but we are going to try not to have missing persons during this administration.

Reporter: In other words, you want to play the role of Alfonsin.

Azcona: The situation is quite different; it is not playing the role of Alfonsin because the situation in Honduras is not the situation that prevailed in Argentina with an extraordinarily repressive government. I think we had missing persons here, unfortunately, but I do not think that Alfonsin will clarify all the cases of missing persons.

Reporter: If the conditions were given would you be opposed to the return of Mr Gustavo Alvarez?

Azcona: According to our Constitution, no one can be expatriated from the country. General Gustavo Alvarez can return to Honduras the day he chooses. If he has any legal affairs pending, he will have to respond to the tribunals. However, our Constitution prohibits the forceful expatriation of any Honduran; our Constitution does not permit exile, and there is not a single Honduran who cannot live in Honduras. Are you going to Nicaragua?

Reporter: Yes.

Azcona: Convince Ortega to open up, to save Nicaragua, to save himself, to respect his Nicaraguan brothers, to speak to Arturo Cruz and the others, and not to think, not dream that he will be able to consolidate a Marxist revolution in Nicaragua. It is as if the Ukraine wanted to become a capitalist republic.

Reporter: Would it be according to the six points that you have set forth?

Azcona: The problem is that the United States is much more respectful and civilized than the Russians. In a similar case the Russians would have already invaded Nicaragua, like they invaded Czechoslovakia and Poland. They are much more civilized, empire for empire. I prefer the U.S. empire over the Russian.

Reporter: Here there is no awareness because the Soviet Union is not well known, while the United States is.

Azcona: We know because we saw what happened in Cuba, and we are seeing what is happening in Nicaragua. The country or government that neglects its citizens with its actions is not a good government. That is fascism. No one likes to live outside his of her country unless it has been a voluntary move.

Reporter: However, aren't there 1 million Salvadorans outside their country also?

Azcona: Yes, but that problem arose as a result of unjust structures. When the change came it was already too late. A very strong armed opposition had already been formed. However, there are not as many Salvadoran exiles as Nicaraguan exiles. There is a guerrilla force operating inside its borders.

Reporter: Are there more Salvadoran refugees?

Azcona: Yes. However, most of them can return to El Salvador without anything happening to them.

Reporter: Couldn't it be against the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of a country to ask Nicaragua to change?

Azcona: No one is attempting to change Nicaragua. That is a hope that Honduras has. I can believe and think and want. However, I will not do it or demand that they do it. I would like Nicaragua to take the democratic path and I support the position of Nicaragua's political parties. Who can prevent my sympathies with various things? That is not intervention. I am certain Commander Ortega wants and would be very happy to see a revolutionary government like the one in Nicaragua establish itself in Honduras. This is also not intervention in Honduras' domestic affairs.

Reporter: Has the Nicaraguan president already said that he would like that to happen?

Azcona: Isn't that what his doctrine propounds? Whoever proclaims himself as Marxist-Leninist is saying that. What does Marxist-Leninism say? What is the main goal of that doctrine? The liberation of the people's? That is like Christians wanting everyone to be Christian.

Reporter: President Roberto Suazo Cordova upheld foreign policy positions that are very similar to yours. However, you fought against him. Why don't you set forth a position that is different?

Azcona: In domestic policy affairs I do. I am a democrat. You asked me a question. I was told that I was criticized because I did not get involved in my party's policies. I am not cut out to be a dictator. I respect people. I am not going to try to divide sectors in Honduras, nor will I attempt to sow division in my party. I will not intervene in other parties' affairs. I will respect the Constitution. If we agree on fortign policy it is because none of us are left-wingers. Therefore, we must naturally agree. My campaign was not based on criticism against Suazo's foreign policy.

Reporter: You defined yourself as being of the center-left?

Azcona: I do not know. I do not like to use the term right or left. I am a liberal who has very good principles that some might describe as leftist although we could never subordinate ourselves to the world interests for economic power, but we must struggle for the common good; there must be a just distribution of wealth. On the other hand, we defend the right to property, and that is a position of the right.

Reporter: What about within the spectrum between Christian Democrats and Social Democrats?

Azcona: Well, I would say that we are closer to the Social Democrats although here the Christian Democrats say there are of the left. I do not know because people are judged here by the terms and the situations.

Reporter: What could West Europe do or what would you like it to do for Honduras?

Azcona: I would like to tell them that here in this small country we are living in a real democracy, that we are learning to live in democracy, that the citizens' freedoms are respected here, that we are a good and noble people who want to live in peace, that we are not warmongerers or lackeys of the United States. However, they should understand that we are in Central America and without seeking it, we are in the zone of conflict. Even though they are thousands of kilometers away and much more powerful than we are, they have to choose sides and they have decided to be friends of the United States. With much more reason, we have to do the same.

Mitterrand has not sought to be friends with the Soviet Union. Neither did Felipe Gonzalez. He voted to remain in NATO. Not even the Greek prime minister, being a Socialist has eliminated the base of the Sixth Fleet. So then, why are they alarmed, and why do they make a great to-do if there are U.S. sailors in Greece, if there are U.S. pilots at the Torrejon base and the other bases in Spain, if there are U.S. soldiers in the FRG and all those countries are NATO members, and they have air missiles, why are they so self-righteous, that the boys of Nicaragua must be helped in a gesture, for one side, for a complex? [sentence as published]

Reporter: Then the difference is that in those countries there is no situation of imminent conflict with a neighboring country?

Azcona: There is no conflict? Isn't Berlin divided?

Reporter: There is another system there.

Azcona: Well, Nicaragua has another system also, or is it that we do not want to include Nicaragua in that? Do we want Somoza to return to Nicaragua? Do we want the achievements that they say they have given to the people -- they say they have carried out agrarian reform -- to be irreversible? No. We have agrarian reform here. Here we have very strong unions, very strong teachers' organizations, in one of which leftists are the leaders. We have student fronts, we have leftist fronts, and there is no problem.

Why must they put in uniform all Nicaraguans who must be in agreement with their beliefs? Why? Why do they have weapons? Why did they oust Somoza? They did not oust him. The Nicaraguan people ousted him. It was not them alone.

Reporter: You say you do not want a return to Somozism in Nicaragua?

Azcona: Of course not; I was anti-Somozist.

Reporter: But it is known that there is much Somozism among the contras. Do you believe the FDN can be an alternative?

Azcona: There is no need for there to be an alternative. It is sufficient that this regime opens up...and if they are the majority of the people, and they are going to win a free election, then they should go ahead; but they should rule within a constitution. That is the important part, no one should feel he is the owner of a country or a group.

Reporter: What if, in theory, you should have to channel your liberal, social democratic position concerning Nicaragua in a conflict with someone who said: I am a contra? [sentence as published]

Azcona: I am not saying I am a contra. What I am saying is that the Nicaraguan Government should open up; it has to respect freedom and honor what it promised at the OAS. It has not fulfilled any of the promises; it has no credibility. However, then the Germans, and the French, and the Italians say I am a dictator, or some one who sells out to the gringos, and Ortega is described as a redeemer. There is a very big difference. I would never harm a Honduran, I would rather leave; but they want to stay in power, regardless, because they are dogmatized [as published], they are not democratic. That is the difference. Then, it is said that Honduras does not have a good reputation abroad; a country that has no political prisoners and persecutes no one for his ideas, a country with full freedom of the press, a government that has high morals, a government with political morals. I really cannot understand that.

Reporter: No. I do not think the world thinks you are a dictator!

Azcona: No, but it is said I have sold out to the gringos, yet they say nothing of Mitterrand, or of Felipe Gonzalez. Didn't Felipe Gonzalez say during his campaign that they should vote no to NATO? Why, if he is a Socialist? What then? Does the Spanish Army carry out joint maneuvers with the U.S. Army?

Reporter: Perhaps because it is easier to listen to Ortega?

Azcona: Oh, there comes the European complex with the United States: We are always going to be against the United States, but the United States has never gone to Europe to defend a fascist system. It first went to oust the German kaiser that represented harshness and skill against Hitler. However, Stalin was able to call the United States when it was invaded by Germany. Yet, I cannot ask the United States to lend me some helicopters when Nicaraguans are entering my country.

Reporter: Are there a great deal of anti-Sandinist feelings?

Azcona: No, but I do something else. Stalin or Russia called on the United States to become involved in the war to defeat Germany and Austria, but I am not allowed to ask the United States to lend me two helicopters to dispatch a few soldiers to Honduran territory. That is a sin.

Reporter: Do you really think that, if it were not for the United States, Nicaragua would come over here?

Azcona: I don't know. What I do know is that the communist countries and worldwide Marxism would spread Marxism throughout the world through subversion if they could, or through indoctrination, or whatever.

Reporter: But that is combat by other means, not just with helicopters.

Azcona: One does not fight with helicopters? Then why does Nicaragua have helicopters?

Reporter: Why does Honduras need helicopters?

Azcona: To transport the Army to oust the Sandinists from the territory they were occupying in Honduras. We have not occupied Nicaraguan territory.

Reporter: Was the Honduran Army there?

Azcona: Of course. We took the Honduran Army there.

Reporter: Was there a clash with Honduran soldiers?

Azcona: There was. The thing is that the Nicaraguans fled. They left prisoners; they left their dead, and they fled. They are not going to make me flee, nor are they going to make me change my position. My position is clear, and I would like those Nicaraguan gentlemen to understand this and to act more flexibly and more intelligenty. Ortega can remain there for 2 years...he might win or share power, but he cannot deny others the right to also attain power. What those people want is to convert Nicaragua into a huge jail like Cuba. Of course, the Nicaraguans happily sign an agreement and look...let us patrol here, and let no one enter and later, with Costa Rica, and inside we will do what we want. [sentence as published] Is this morally right?

Reporter: One element of international law is that it obliges any state to prevent attacks on another state.

Azcona: I am not attacking Nicaragua.

Reporter: Yes, but this can also be done by omission.

Azcona: What do you mean, done by omission? The Honduran soldiers are not going to enter Nicaragua.

Reporter: I am referring to the contras.

Azcona: What do you want? Do you want me to spend millions upon millions here to guard their backs? Who is going to give me those millions to deploy 20,000 or 30,000 men? Should I spend the millions that I need for medicine, schools, and to pay teachers? Just to guard their rear? Hell! Let them guard their own backs.

Reporter: Is it an economic problem then?

Azcona: It is an overall problem. The problem is the Nicaraguans. Why do the contras exist? Why do the refugees exist? Because they are not satisfied with that government, and that is very clear, as was the case with Somoza. Why did they oust Somoza? Why did they disagree with Somoza? What about us? Is it our duty to guard their rear while they are doing as they please in Nicaragua? That is not my duty.

Reporter: There have been perhaps even worse situations of conflict on the Salvadoran border.

Azcona: Yes, but they did not involve ideology or territorial expansion. We are not going to neglect the problem with El Salvador. We know that we have to mark the border as soon as possible. If we look at it from the perspective of time, we are more concerned about the problem with El Salvador, because the Nicaraguan problem is of the moment, while the other problem will be permanent as long as the border issue remains unresolved. What we will always reject is the demand that Honduras guard Nicaragua's back. We have no obligation to do that.

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

PA151335 Managua International Service in Spanish 1302 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 14 April -- read by unidentified speaker]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, aware of the most recent premeditated military attacks by the U.S. Government against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, expresses its most vigorous condemnation of this new aggression that endangers world peace.

The U.S. Government, alleging that it is fighting terrorism, has launched this aggression, carrying out the most indiscriminate international terrorism by ordering the bombing of targets in populated areas of Tripoli.

Open recourse to the use of force which has characterized the Reagan administration's policy, today places the entire international community in a dangerous situation inasmuch as the aggression launched against Libya totally lacks justification and only finds explanation in the U.S. insistence in imposing its will on independent nations, acting outside the international law provisions and the mechanisms established for the peaceful solution of controversies.

The actions of the United States are absolutely unjustifiable in view that days earlier, Libya not only denied responsibility but furthermore condemned the acts used by the Reagan administration to justify its aggression. Moreover, no serious evidence of support for its actions and aggressions exists. Likewise, one can only describe as irresponsible the disregard for the appeals issued by various governments of the world calling for moderation and peaceful solutions to prevent the new escalation of military tensions that today has become a reality in the Mediterranean.

In light of this new act of aggression, Nicaragua, from its position as a nonaligned country and upon expressing its solidarity with the Libyan people, issues a call to the international community to carry out all the necessary efforts to demand from the U.S. Government behavior that is in line with the basic norms of international law.

Managua, 14 April 1986

Parties Repudiate Attack

PA151750 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1255 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Nicaragua's political sectors have begun to issue statements repudiating the savage U.S. attacks against Libya. Carlos Cuadra of the Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Party and Gustavo Tablada, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, emphatically repudiated the attack and said that it is time for the Nicaraguan people to close ranks.

Various Groups Comment

PA152120 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Committee of Solidarity with the Peoples, CNSP, strongly condemned the U.S. attack on Libya. Patricia Elvir, secretary general of the CNSP, said that the U.S. criminal attack on Libya is aimed at convincing the U.S. Congress of the effectiveness of President Reagan's methods, to obtain approval of the $100 million for the contras. The CNSP secretary general made a call to all the peoples of the world to show their solidarity with the Libyan and Nicaraguan people, who are currently targets of the U.S. state terrorism.

This morning, the Nicaraguan Association of Friendship with Socialist Countries, ANAPS, also condemned the U.S. air attack on Libya. ANAPS Secretary General Socorro Galan said that this U.S. attack on Libya will have grave consequences for the stability and security in the entire Middle East.

President Reagan's decision to attack Libya violates the World Powers Act, Freddy Balzan, executive secretary of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, said in a statement for this newscast.

[Begin Balzan recording] Last night and during the course of this morning, we have been in permanent contact with the international president of TANA, Dr Guillermo Torrielo, as well as with the TANA chapters in several Latin American countries. We also issued the following statement:

The premeditation, treachery, and cruelty that characterized the criminal U.S. bombing in an effort to assassinate the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and to destroy that sovereign country's military objectives, is an objectionable action and in the TANA's opinion should be severely sanctioned by the international community. TANA feels that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has trampled upon his own country's world powers act, which is not only another insult to the U.S. Congress, but it has virtually created a coup d'etat and [word indistinct] the United States has violated national laws, which places the world on the verge of a catastrophe.

It is certain that the criminal attack on the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is an unfortunate incident for international law carried out by the fascist gangs installed in the White House. It has destroyed humanity's hopes of solving conflicts among nations according to the dictates of the UN Charter.

The U.S. Government has irresponsibly tried to justify the military aggression against Libya as an effort to eliminate terrorism, when it is no longer a secret for any country in the world that the Reagan administration is the most authentic and fanatic example of the U.S. policy of state terrorism against truly free nations such as Nicaragua, Angola, and Vietnam, among many others. The U.S. genocidal attack on Libya came on the eve of congressional approval of $100 million to finance the criminal activities of the CIA mercenary groups, like the FDN, which are responsible for massive violations of human rights -- and this has been recognized internationally -- and whose main leaders are involved in drug trafficking and the illegal use of funds provided by U.S. taxpayers, as some U.S. Government institutions have reported.

Because of all of these reasons, the presidency and executive secretariat of TANA calls on all of the tribunal's chapters to reject the U.S. aggression against Libya, as well as its criminal plans against Nicaragua. [end recording]

Citizens Protest

PA161248 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] The people staged meetings and bonfires in different sections of Managua last night to repudiate the $100 million the Reagan administration is attempting to give the counterrevolution to cause more bloodshed in Nicaragua. The demonstrations by the residents of Managua were also to express solidarity with the sister people of Libya who are currently sustaining a most criminal aggression by the Reagan administration which has already produced many dead and wounded. The popular mobilizations took place in the neighborhoods of San Judas, Colonia Centro America, Ciudad Sandino, and others.

APPROVAL OF O'NEILL PROPOSAL CALLED 'MANEUVER'

PA160116 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] We have a last minute report on the funds for maintaining the war on Nicaragua. The latest report, which we are receiving as a scoop from Washington, is that a few moments ago, the U.S. House of Representative agreed to include the $100 million that will be used for maintaining the war on Nicaragua in a budget package.

This is in line with a proposal made by Representative Thomas O'Neill. The proposal has been approved by the House of Representatives. This means that the U.S. Congress will continue discussing more funds to maintain the aggression against Nicaragua. Nothing has changed by approving this variant.

This has been just a congressional manuever to brush up with legality what is illegal: the discussion of more funds for the counterrevolutionaries. Meanwhile, it has been reported that the United States has implemented a new political maneuver in Central America by [words indistinct] the foreign minister of Panama that the United States is willing to cut off the aid to the mercenary bands if Nicaragua signs the peace act. The U.S. Government claims that it would then provide other kinds of aid to the counterrevolutionaries.

These are maneuvers that the U.S. Government is carrying out to counteract world public opinion opposed to the congressional discussions, which have been termed immoral and illegal. We repeat: A few moments ago the U.S. House of Representatives approved in Washington D.C. a proposal by House leader Thomas O'Neill to discuss the $100 million to be used for continuing the war on Nicaragua as part of a suplementary-aid package.

REPORTAGE ON U.S.-LIBYAN CLASH, COMMENTARY

U.S. Policy 'State Terrorism'

FL151206 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government's state terrorism policy has been clearly exemplified during the last few hours as U.S. war planes attacked the Libyan capital for the second time in less than 24 hours. Before dawn, the targets were heavily populated Tripoli neighborhoods where Yankee bombs have caused numerous deaths and injuries, including foreign residents and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's relatives.

The Spanish news agency EFE, citing the Libyan news agency JANA, reported a few moments ago that during this morning's attacks, Swiss, French, and Iranian Embassies were damaged in the Libyan capital. The Algerian Press Agency, citing the Libyan national station, reported that Libyan antiaircraft defense is firmly confronting aggression and that numerous U.S. planes have been downed and their pilots executed by the people. Tripoli Radio called for a holy war against the United States and urged Algeria, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt to attack U.S. targets in the Mediterranean. Other Tripoli radio reports indicate that at least 20 U.S. planes had been downed by the Libyan antiaircraft defense.

It is estimated that during Monday's U.S. state terrorism operation against Libya, 33 bombers participated, and protected by darkness of the night dropped laser directed bombs and launched air-to-surface rockets against Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's home and two airports. Other planes that left the America and Coral Sea aircraft carriers did the same thing against the coastal city of Benghazi, located east of the Gulf of Sidra. The F-111 planes, left the U.S. bases in British territory with the approval of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government. In the opinion of military experts, it is possible that U.S. satellites played a key role in the attack and that other U.S. military installations offered logistical support to the attack against the Libyan people.

2d U.S.Air Strike Reported

PA151632 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] The U.S. CNN Television Network and other sources have reported that 3 hours after the attack carried out by U.S. planes against Libya on Tuesday, another air aggression took place against Tripoli, the Libyan capital. It was said that the first U.S. Air Force attack lasted approximately half an hour and concentrated on the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi. Radio Tripoli has repeatedly reported that Libyan antiaircraft defense units downed three of the F-111 planes that took part in the aggression. Unconfirmed reports say that Libyan airspace has been closed to international air traffic.

Embassy in Tripoli Undamaged

FL151817 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] The Cuban Embassy in Tripoli has reported that all Cubans residing in Libya are in perfect condition. Communication established with the Cuban Embassy in Tripoli confirmed that the building was not damaged. Medical personnel residing in Libya as internationalists continue providing services. Construction workers and crew of the Moncada ship anchored in the port of Tripoli and Playa Larga and the Pamik ships in the port of Benghazi have not had any difficulties and are working normally.

Libyan Official: No Fear of U.S.

FL152054 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2036 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Muhammad 'Ali al-Ajili, secretary of the People's Committee of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Cuba, told Radio Reloj this afternoon that the Libyan people are not afraid of U.S. imperialist aggression.

In reference to the brutal Yankee attack, the Arab diplomat said Libya continues struggling for its independence, honor, and against the U.S. policy of terrorism.

Muhammad 'Ali al-Ajili denounced the Yankee's morning attack on civilian zones in Tripoli and Benghazi which caused casualties among Libyan citizens and foreigners.

I would like to take the opportunity given to us by Radio Reloj, added the Libyan diplomat, to demonstrate that we are not alone since we have the support of peace lovers and progressive governments.

Anti-Libyan Actions Reviewed

PA152358 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 86

["Note" by Leonor Bravo]

[Text] From its onset, the Ronald Reagan government has accused Libya -- although without presenting proof -- of sponsoring all terrorist acts taking place in the world. To destabilize the transformation process led by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the United States is increasing its anti-Libya campaign. In April and May 1980 the U.S. Government expelled two Libyan diplomats. And (?a year later) it closed the Tripoli embassy in Washington. In 1981, U.S. fighter planes fired their missiles at two Libyan planes and shot them down in the Gulf of Sidra, a sea and air space which Libya claims is part of its territory. Months later, the United States banned the importing of crude Libyan oil.

In March 1984, it decided to suspend its deliveries to the Libyan petrochemical complex at (Ras Lanof). In December 1985, Reagan charged that Tripoli had participated in two actions that took place at the Rome and Vienna airports. In January, after ordering U.S. citizens living in Libya to return to the United States, the White House froze Libya's assets in U.S. banks.

From January to February 1986. Washington conducted air and sea maneuvers at the Gulf of Sidra. On 24 March, U.S. planes attacked three boats and an antimissile coastal installation in that Arab country.

The escalation of anti-Libyan aggression reached its peak on Monday when U.S. bombers attacked Tripoli, worsening the situation in the region and imperiling world peace.

AALAPSO Condemns Attack

PA160253 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] In Havana, the AALAPSO has described the U.S. military aggression against Libya as brutal and cold blooded.

Government Statement

FL160255 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Statement issued by the Government of Cuba, date not given -- read by unidentified reporter]

[Text] Statement by the Cuban Government. In a piratical action that again shows both its absolute contempt for the norms of international law and for peaceful coexistence between states and the absence of a minimum respect for the moral principles that should rule the conduct of all governments, President Reagan, the leader of state terrorism, yesterday launched a brutal attack against the Libyan people, making use of his most sophisticated military means. With his habitual cynicism and in an outrageous attempt to justify it, the top American spokesman affirmed that the action was directed against military objectives. Their lack of truthfulness was revealed when it was shown that the Yankee attacks affected civilian installations in Tripoli, in which foreign citizens reside.

U.S. television has made it possible to view the scope of aggression against civilian buildings. Libyan sources have confirmed that the residence of the chief of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, was one of the objectives of that insane aggression. When he informed international public opinion, boasting of his actions and asserting they will be repeated if the United States considers it necessary, President Reagan invoked Article 51 of the UN Charter. Nothing could be more insulting to the international community than this jeering, not only at the spirit but at the letter of the Charter, of which Article 51 explicitly consecrates the right of legitimate individual or collective defense in case of armed attack against a member of the United Nations.

The unequivocal absence of any military aggression against the United States makes sterile all Reagan's attempts to find judicial support for his sinister aggression. Thus it is explicable that the White House has found it impossible to obtain the support of its NATO allies, who not only repudiated his action but also prohibited the aggressor Yankee aircraft from flying over their territories, forcing the United States Air Force in this way to fly an unexpected route and refuel its aircraft in flight.

To British shame, only the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher continued showing its unconditional support of Washington, returning to the Reagan government the aid Britain received when, betraying its pledges to the so-called TIAR [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty], the United States supported the Malvinas Island adventure, distinguished by the same treachery and identical brutality. Although yesterday's intolerable action was not needed to confirm it, with this action Reagan has ratified his evident decision to convert himself into the promoter of the worst state terrorism, manifested in his support of the counterrevolutionary Somozist bands in Nicaragua and in his additional demand for $100 million in arms for these bands and the abolition of the Clark Amendment, with the declared intention of using the counterrevolutionary bands of Jonas Savimbi to further U.S. policy in southern Africa, which Washington manipulates against the Angolan revolution. The U.S. President, who has not hesitated in declaring himself the strategic ally of Israel and in ratifying Israel's continuous attacks against Arab nations, presents himself to the U.S. public as protector of his supposedly endangered security.

His avalanche of propaganda may be capable of winning for him the temporary support of the deceived U.S. people. But in the long run, truth will win out, and Reagan will once again be unmasked as the representative of his policy of military supremacy, force, and diktat [preceding word in English] which, if it does not lead as dramatically as appears to be possible to a catastrophe that would affect the entire world, will make him pass into history among the worst representatives of the big stick policy and barbarity.

The response of the international community shows its rejection of Reagan's decision to disregard all civilized mechanisms, proclaiming himself judge and jury of international law, which he does not respect.

A few hours before his despicable attack, the EEC had requested a political and diplomatic solution for the Mediterranean. But Reagan, the protector of counterrevolutionary terrorists accuses other states of terrorist acts and, like his kin in the Ku Klux Klan of the South, gives himself the right to place the blame arbitrarily and unilaterally, and hand out punishments that not even the UN Security Council would order.

Once again, this policy toward Libya is in contrast with his attitude in cases of proven criminality such as the crimes the racist regime of South Africa commits, which crimes have merited the condemnation of the United Nations.

The Nonaligned Movement, representing all underdeveloped countries that belong to the movement, have repudiated this unheard-of act and have demanded that the United States be condemned by the UN Security Council. All the world's nations that aspire to true peace and solid international security should support this action. The Government of the Republic of Cuba, by condemning with all its energy the aggression of the Reagan administration against Libya, expresses its dedicated solidarity with the Libyan people and their leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and salutes the firmness they have shown in confronting the savagery of the U.S. leaders. The attitude of meting out justice oneself, which is incredible at this stage of human development, will only provoke greater confrontations and more bloodshed.

Today, 25 years after the bombing of the Cuban airports prior to the invasion of the Bay of Pigs, Cuba recalls that the lesson of that first defeat of imperialism in Latin America is that no one, no matter now powerful, can turn back the course of history.

3d U.S. Attack Noted

FL160418 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] The most recent reports with regard to Libya say that tonight the U.S. Air Force launched a third attack against the North African country, according to the correspondent in Tripoli of the Yugoslav TANJUG Agency. According to the source, this third attack lasted only 2 minutes but was very severe and occured only 20 minutes after the second attack.

The Libyan radio, in referring to this new attack against the capital of this Arab country, does not specify which objectives were attacked by the U.S. Planes. Other sources said that the Military-Naval Academy, which had already been attacked this morning, was again attacked today. During the first U.S. attack on Tripoli, an adopted daughter of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was killed, according to medical reports from that Arabic country. Another two of Al-Qadhdhafi's sons were seriously injured and his remaining five sons were wounded.

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OFFICIALS RESPOND TO U.S. ACTION IN LIBYA

Alfonsin Notes 'Grave Concern'

PY162112 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2048 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin today said that he is really concerned about the situation that is being experienced by Libya, and after referring to the government communique, he stressed that it is really a matter of grave concern. These remarks were made at the military sector of the Jorge Newberry Metropolitan Airport after his arrival from Viedma at 1655 [1955 GMT]. In Viedma, and also in La Plata, he handed to the governor a copy of the draft project for the transfer of the federal capital to the urban complex made up of the cities of Carmen de Patagones and Viedma.

May Enlist Group of 6

PY151337 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1210 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (NAP) -- President Raul Alfonsin may propose that the Group of Six issue a new call for peace in the wake of the U.S. attack on Libya early this morning, UCR [Radical Civic Union] Senator Adolfo Gass revealed this morning. The congressman, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, admitted the possibility that President Alfonsin may speak on the international situation that has developed as a result of the U.S. bombing of Tripoli in the message he will deliver tonight. A few days ago the Group of Six, which is made up of Argentina, Mexico, India, Greece, Tanzania, and Sweden, issued a reminder to the United States and the Soviet Union regarding the resumption of nuclear testings.

In a statement to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, Senator Gass said that the U.S. attack on Libya "is not the best thing for world peace," and added that President Alfonsin "could" speak in tonight's message about what has happened in the North African country and the danger that it poses to world peace. Gass also said that Alfonsin may ask the Group of Six to issue a new call "to stop the dangerous escalation, which may lead to a nuclear holocaust." He considered the U.S. attack on Tripoli no more than "a warning" to Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi about the terrorist acts that are attributed to him. Gass added that "this thing won't go further," although "the reaction of the Soviet Union, the other world power, has yet to be seen." The senator noted that the situation "has caused concern among many countries where the United States has military bases which could be attacked by the anti-North American Muslim groups." He warned that "the great wrold wars have started with events of this nature."

On another subject, Senator Gass said that he does not believe the United States could attack Nicaragua at this time because "it would imply the opening of two fronts at the same time," and also because the situation in Central America "is completely different now that the Contadora and the Contadora Support Groups are working there." Gass affirmed that "the Latin American countries are united in support of the principle of nonintervention, dialogue, and discussion," without "the interference of countries foreign to the region," such as the United States and the Soviet Union.

Foreign Ministry Makes Statement

PY152045 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2034 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (TELAM) -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry has condemned terrorism in all its forms as well as all military reprisals that are unilaterally undertaken by those governments that consider themselves affected by the perpetration of terrorist actions. The Argentine Foreign Ministry made this statement in reference to the conflict between Libya and the United States. The U.S. Government says that the air raids are in self-defense. They are measures against the terrorist actions allegedly sponsored by Libya against U.S. citizens.

The Argentine Government has emphatically condemned terrorism several times in all forms. At the same time it systematically opposes any action of military reprisal carried out unilaterally by the governments that consider themselves affected by the terrorist actions. Those demonstrations of force invariably result in innocent victims and undermine the implementation of the international regulations provided for in the UN Charter aimed at safeguarding peace and coexistence between the nations.

Moreover, the painful historic experience has proven that such acts contribute to exacerbating and spreading the use of blind violence throughout the world. Argentina follows with great concern the course of events and vehemently calls for prudence and respect for international laws because they are the only ones that can provide answers to the serious conflicts that worry us today.

In connection with the Libyan conflict it was reported that Daniel Bushnell, minister counselor of the U.S. Embassy in Argentina, met with Jorge Mourhat, Argentine foreign policy under secretary.

Leftists Threaten U.S. Embassy

PY160230 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0105 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (NA) -- A group of approximately 300 leftist youths, most of them of Syrian-Lebanese descent, gathered in front of the U.S. stand at the book fair to chant anti-U.S. slogans. This demonstration, that lasted some 35 minutes, is the first action against the U.S. attack on Libya. The political youths have summoned a meeting for 1600 [1900 GMT] tomorrow in front of the obelisk to protest against Ronald Reagan's government.

The youths that gathered at the book fair distributed pamphlets with the emblem of the Revolutionary Peronism, the Communist Youth Federation, the Socialist Youth and the Movement for Socialism. The youths chanted hostile slogans that included severe epithets but did not attempt any physical aggression. Some of the slogans said "applaud, do not stop applauding, the Yankees, sons of b---, must die"; "Reagan, everyone has had enough, Al-Qadhdhafi's fatherland can be watched but not touched". They also changed the following warning: "If you hurl another bomb we will set your embassy on fire." The youths also chanted: "We are not going to pay for the NATO missiles with the peoples' hunger."

Storani, Bordon Comment

PY152131 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2048 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (NA) -- Federico Storani, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, and Jose Bordon, Justicialist deputy and member of that committee, today agreed in repudiating energetically the U.S. attack on Libyan military bases. They stated that the action "can mean the beginning of warlike escalation of unpredictable consequences."

Storani stated: "Irregularity and illegality cannot be fought with more of the same. No one can mete out justice or take vengeance in his own hands in a manner that totally contradicts the norms of international law." He added that "we cannot be so naive as to not admit that the Libyan regime has on several occasions promoted terrorist actions, which we also repudiate." He then explained: "This does not justify any type of retaliation." He warned that "the zone where the action is taking place, in the Mediterranean Sea, jeopardizes world peace" and "can have unpredictable consequences." "World peace is far more important than the possibility of teaching a lesson, as the United States termed its actions."

Bordon also expressed his "concern" over the increasing warlike escalation and over "the injustice imposed on the peoples involved, beyond their governments, in the situation." The Justicialist deputy demanded "the immediate adoption of measures to restore peace" based on the "ratification of the principles of non-intervention and the unpostponable need for all the countries to live in peace through the recovery of their own dignity." Bordon pointed out that "this conflict today has a much greater repercussion because it takes place in the center of the world scenario" but pointed out that "however, it is only another example of the tacit cold war we continue to experience." He said that "in my capacity as an Argentine citizen and member of the Justicialist Party I must once again defend the position of the Third World" and stated that "we share Europe's unrest in the sense that it is involved in a conflict for which it is not to blame." He added, this "only confirms our opinion in analyzing the war over the Malvinas and the threat that the presence of British military bases in the South Atlantic represent to the peace in Latin America."

The executive board of the Popular Socialist Party, for its part, has requested the UN secretary general to immediately condemn the U.S. attack and has pointed out that "this irrational attitude, with the technological development of our times, not only places world peace at stake but also the entire planet and human race."

Other Lawmakers React

PY151804 [Editorial report] Argentine press agencies monitored at the Paraguay bureau on 15 April have carried several reports on reaction by Argentine politicians to the U.S. air attacks against Libya.

Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 1613 GMT carried at 140-word report quoting Justicialist Senator Oraldo Britos as saying that the U.S. attack against Libya was an "unwarranted aggression," because "the United States is not the world's supervisor." According to the report, Senator Britos said that the Justicialists "cannot accept this arbitrary action, which shows that some nations have not yet considered the peace proposal" that all the nations of the world are considering.

In a 200-word report transmitted from Buenos Aires by the same news agency at 1521 GMT, Justicialist Deputy Lorenzo Pepe is quoted as saying that the U.S. attack "has jeopardized world peace" and that "the United States has once again risen as the 'guardian' of what it considers the interests of the Western world, disregarding all the regulations issued by international forums and conventions." The report says that Pepe criticized the attack by saying: "I am greatly concerned about this unilateral action, which was performed without consulting any international organization. or forum.

Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 1516 GMT transmitted a 220-word report quoting Radical Civic Union Senator Fernando de la Rua as saying that it is necessary "to call urgently for UN intervention" in the wake of the U.S. attack against Libya. The report also quotes De La Rua as condemning war "and international terrorism, which jeopardizes the security and the tranquility of the people."

Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1701 GMT in a 200-word report quotes Intransigent Party Deputy Oscar Alende as saying: "I believe that Ronald Reagan should be submitted to a psychological test because he has an extremely dangerous mentality." The report says that Alende categorically repudiated the U.S. attack against Libya. Alende is also quoted as saying Argentina should remain totally outside this type of action by the United States, "Which has a belligerent attitude and resorts to its nuclear and military power. We know that everyone loses and that no one wins when there is a war."

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1[illegible]00 GMT in a 300-word report quotes Argentine Communist Party Secretary General Athos Fava as saying that the U.S. air raid on Tripoli is a "criminal" action. He urges the Argentine Government to "officially condemn the aggression." The report says that Fava stressed that the executive branch should "declare a moratorium on the foreign debt, because the United States uses this money to finance its policy of militarism."

Deputy Monserrat on 'Atrocity'

PY151602 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1349 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (DYN) -- Miguel Monserrat, the national deputy of the Intransigent Party, has described the U.S. military attack on Libya as an "atrocity" and warned that the attack "is seriously jeopardizing peace."

Monserrat told DYN that the U.S. action "constitutes a form of state terrorism at the international level by the Reagan administration and the beginning of a war without a prior declaration."

He added: "It is an action that must be condemned, that deserves the repudiation of all govermnents and people of the world because it is seriously jeopardizing world peace. It is an event appropriate of other times, recalling the colonial arrogance of the 19th century."

Monserrat said in conclusion that "the pretext used to carry out an all-out attack against a small country to justify a violation of the basic rules of international law makes no sense."

UCD Deputy Justifies Mission

PY151615 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1450 GMT 15 Apr 86

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (NA) -- Democratic Center Union (UCD) Deputy Alvaro Alsogaray today said that the U.S. attack against Libya "served to protect not only" the United States "but also all peaceful and democratic nations that can suffer" what he called the "blackmail" of the Al-Qadhdhafi regime. Alsogaray stressed that "the impartial world public has no doubt whatsoever" about the Al-Qadhdhafi regime's responsibility and that Libya is a sanctuary for terrorism. This is the text of the statement the UCD deputy released:

"The President of the United States has declared that there is evidence that Al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan dictator, is responsible for numerous terrorist attacks in several parts of the world and, in particular, for the most recent attack in the FRG. The impartial world public has no doubt whatsoever about Al-Qadhdhafi's responsibility and about the fact that Libya is a sanctuary for terrorism. I personally believe in what President Reagan has said and in the U.S. people's right [words indistinct] terrorist. This action [words indistinct] protects the United States but also all the peaceful and democratic nations that can suffer this blackmail."

Envoy Says Tripoli 'Normal'

PY151235 Buenos Aires in Spanish 0935 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (TELAM) -- Argentine Ambassador to Libya Julio Alfredo Freixas today said that activities in Tripoli are normal and that no Argentine Embassy official or Argentine citizen was injured during last night's U.S. air raid. In a phone conversation with TELAM, the ambassor confirmed that the French Embassy in Tripoli was damaged during the raid. However, he added that the French ambassador himself "told me that no French official was injured."

The Argentine ambassador explained that the French Embassy is very close to one of the targets that was attacked during the raid, and that the Embassy's windows were shattered and some of the building's plaster was damaged by the shockwaves of the U.S. bombs. The Argentine ambassador added that from the Argentine Embassy, which is located some 1,500 meters from one of the targets of the attack, it was possible to hear several explosions followed by gunfire 2 hours after the raid, that the causes of the explosive and the gunfire are not known, and that the Libyan Government has not yet reported on them.

Reports carried by TASS and DPA have said that these explosions were the result of a second U.S. air raid. Freixas said the explosions were indeed heard, but assured that airplanes were not heard. Thus, he ruled out the possibility of a second air raid. Regarding Radio Tripoli's report about the existence of many civilian casualties, both Libyans and foreigners, the ambassador said that this is possible, although he pointed out that at 0200 (the time of the attack) no on was on the streets. He added that the military installations are too far away for something like that to have occurred. He explained that only a projectile that did not hit the target could have caused civilian casualties because the U.S. Air Force attacked well-defined, isolated targets.

He said that nothing is known about what happened to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who, according to government spokesmen, was not hurt. However, he said that there are unofficial reports that some of his relatives were wounded during the attack on his general headquarters.

[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1030 GMT on 15 April adds: "Freixas said that there is no evidence in Tripoli that two of al-Qadhdhafi's sons have died."]

Libyan Spokesman on '2d Attack'

PY170148 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2305 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (NA) -- A spokesman of the Libyan Government tonight denied "the possibility of a coup" against Colonel Mu'Ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He stressed the fact that there will be no negotiations with the United States, and he reported that planes of the 6th Fleet had again attacked Tripoli at approximately 1000 this morning, Argentine time [1300 GMT]. These statements were made via satellite to Radio Nacional's program "60 Nacional" by the director of the Department of Public Information of the Libyan Government.

"I cannot guess whether the United States is preparing some [words indistinct] is not going to negotiate with the United States; on the contrary, we are going to continue to fight, because we are fighting for a just cause, to protect our territory." The spokesman denied "the reports that indicate the possibility of a coup" and he also stressed that "today at 1400, Libyan time, they began another bomb attack against Tripoli and its environs." He stressed that during that fight "the Libyan forces shot down several U.S. planes."

Libyan Envoy Received

PY152207 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2141 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (TELAM) -- Today the head of the Libyan Embassy in Buenos Aires, 'Ali Sulayman Al-Angali, went to the Foreign Ministry to request Argentina's political support for his country. Before entering the ministry building he told the media that he had requested an interview with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo to explain the situation his country is enduring in view of the U.S. attacks.

The Libyan representative said that the audience had been granted immediately but that because Caputo had other commitments he would be received by Jorge Sabato, secretary for international and worship affairs. He ended by recalling that Argentina and Libya are members of the Nonaligned Movement and, as a consequence, we must help each other. It was learned that Sabato gave the Libyan diplomat a copy of the communique issued by the Foreign Ministry condemning the U.S. attack against Libya.

LIBYAN CLASH PROMPTS PROTESTS, DEMONSTRATIONS

Dissenters Visit U.S. Consulates

PY160406 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo Network in Portuguese 0300 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] At noon today the Arab community living in Sao Paulo plans to hold a demonstration in front of the local U.S. Consulate to repudiate the U.S. bombing against Libya. The leaderhsip of the Sao Paulo Arab Community condemned the U.S. attack and said it is a state terrorist action. In Porto Alegre, the capital of the Rio Grande do Sul state, the 4th Congress of Brazilian-Palestine organizations is changing its agenda and is (including) the Libyan conflict in its discussions. The [words indistinct] within the local legislative assembly supported by 20 civilian and party organizations issued a protest note condemning the imperialist aggression launched by Ronald Reagan and calling for a demonstration to be held 18 April in front of the local U.S. Consulate office.

Meanwhile, in Rio de Janeiro there was a peaceful demonstration [words indistinct] in front of the U.S. Consulate which caused a traffic jam. Here is a report from [name indistinct].

A demonstration against the U.S. attack on Libya gathered more than 200 persons in front of the U.S. Consulate [passage indistinct]. After many speeches praising the attitude of the Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi for confronting the U.S. superpower [words indistinct] who noted that Brazil must condemn both the United States and the Soviet Union which has invaded and is still occupying Afghanistan. (?Gaveira) said that he is used to [word indistinct] that Brazil must assume an independent position and struggle with other countries of the Third World so that no country will be subjugated by any superpower. [end relay]

The military police from the local anti-riot batallion surrounded the U.S. Consulate, but there were no incidents reported. The demonstrators were able to submit a statement to the U.S. consul condemning the U.S. attitude regarding Libya and in other regions, such as in the Nicaraguan border. The U.S. Consulate and the American news agency were closed in Belo Horizonte [words indistinct]. According to the federal police a security plan was enforced to protect the officials.

But the situation was different in Recife, since the U.S. Consulate was shaken when it received an anonymous telephone call warning about a bomb in the consulate offices. Local federal police checked the U.S. Consulate offices and concluded that there was no bomb. An anonymous phone call mobilized the federal police, as well as the Foreign Ministry, the National Security Secretariat, and the U.S. Embassy to protect the American School in Brasilia. The caller said that the school was going to be the target of a terrorist attack. Since nothing abnormal was detected, American school activities proceeded as normal, but under strict police security.

U.S. Flags Burned in Rio

PY162255 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Apr 86 p 16

[Text] Two U.S. flags were burned last night in front of the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro, located on President Wilson Avenue, during a demonstration of 300 people against the U.S. attacks on Libya. A group of five leaders of civilian and political organizations handed a manifesto repudiating the bombing to Consul Steve Watson. The manifesto is signed by 35 organizations headed by the Brazilian Council for the Defense of Peace [Condepaz], which is led by academician Antonio Houaiss.

"The document condemns "the indiscriminate bombings which affected the civilian population" and the "official terrorism of strong nations against the weak ones." It also demands "the adoption of strong measures" by Brazil. There was some confusion when some of the people tried to enter the building when presenting the document, but the security men allowed only the five-member commission headed by Condepaz Secretary Zuleide Faria de Melo to pass. In front of the building, protected by two antiriot trucks of the 1st Military Police Battalion, more than 30 speeches were heard. After burning two U.S. flags, a group tried to seize the flag at the U.S. Consulate, but they were prevented by policemen and the organizers of the demonstration, who requested that everyone remain calm.

Bomb Threats Made

PY170356 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo Network in Portuguese 0300 GMT 17 Apr 86

[By Ney Franca]

[Text] Anonymous telephone calls announcing bomb threats caused confusion today, 16 April, at the U.S. Consulate, the Brazilian-U.S. Institute, and the offices of the Shell company in Belo Horizonte. Civilian and military policemen looked into every corner of the building where these institutions are operating, but nothing was found. There are strong security measures around the U.S. Consulate in Minas Gerais. The Federal Police department has confirmed that there is special security around the U.S. Consulate in Belo Horizonte, according to orders from Brasilia. The building housing the consulate is in a residential area, keeps is its doors locked, and has no press access.

The city council has approved the sending of condolences to the victims of both sides of the Libyan-U.S. conflict. Meanwhile, in the Legislative Assembly, Deputy (Shamir Cecilio) of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], compared President Ronald Reagan to Hitler and Mussolini. He said that Brazil cannot express solidarity with any stupidity, regardless of its origin.

Brazilian-Arab Center's Statement

PY161818 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] There have been anti-U.S. demonstrations in Sao Paulo, Good afternoon, Pedro Luiz Ronco.

[Begin Ronco relay] A very good afternoon to you, Ferreira Martins. It is now 1309. Dozens of organizations are still demonstrating in front of the U.S. Consulate in Sao Paulo, repudiating the U.S. attack against Libya. The Brazilian-Arab Cultural Center has released a manifesto to the people in the area and to U.S. Consulate Officials. Here is the text of the communique:

We consider that this act of war perpetrated by a great power against a free and sovereign country is a criminal action that has affected innocent people, has trampled the principles of international law, and has been based on force, in full disreagrd of the principles of peaceful coexistence and dialogue, which should guide the actions of the countries that call themselves civilized. We condemn each and every form of state terrorism because it weakens peace, accord, and justice, which are the pillars upon which international relations should be built.

We repudiate the U.S. aggression, which has been announced by the U.S. leader and which has unequivocally shown that the United States, which calls itself the preserver of the peoples' rights, has performed an imperialist action devoid of all justice. We call upon all peace-loving nations, peoples, and leaders to condemn this fratricidal action and to join efforts to defend their most cherished rights, to free their unjustly occupied territories, and to convey their courageous support to Libya, so that they may be respected by the international community and so that they may freely strive for their own higher objectives.

Signed: Brazilian-Arab Cultural Center.

This has been Pedro Luiz Ronco, reporting for the afternoon issue of "Reporter Bandeirantes." [end relay]

Sao Paulo Demonstration

PY161552 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1526 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] On behalf of the Committee for Solidarity With Libya, the Arab community residing in Sao Paulo is sponsoring a demonstration against the U.S. military aggression against Libya. The demonstration is now being staged in front of the U.S. Consulate in Sao Paulo. U.S. Consulate press spokesman (Rodolfo Valentino) has said that if the demonstrators want to submit a document, the consulate will receive it (?and) will submit it to the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia. So far, there have been no incidents. The demonstration is being staged calmly.

Porto Alegre Protest Scheduled

PY162033 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 1920 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Approximately 20 organizations, representatives of different sectors, the unions, the General Confederation of Labor, the Sole Central Organization of Workers, (ANAHI), and several other organizations representing civilian sectors have released an official note repudiating President Reagan's terrorist attack on Libya and have scheduled a demonstration in front of the U.S. Consulate here in Porto Alegre. This demonstration will take place on 18 April, at noon.

Security Tightened

PY152117 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia in Portuguese 2108 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] The head of the National Service for Intelligence [SNI], General Ivan de Souza Mendes, has said that the conflict between the United States and Libya will not affect President Jose Sarney's visit to Portugal scheduled for early May. The SNI director also referred to the safety of U.S. citizens in Brazilian territory. He said that for some time now the Brazilian Government has been concerned about their safety. Advisers to the Presidency disclosed that security measures for U.S. diplomats, citizens and companies were tightened yesterday.

SODRE SAYS NO ONGOING ARMS SALES TO LIBYA

PY160437 Paris AFP in Spanish 0417 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 15 Apr (AFP) -- The Brazilian news agency ANDA tonight carried remarks by Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre to the effect that his country is not selling arms to Libya.

The source added that Sodre, who made this statement at the Planalto Palace after meeting with President Jose Sarney, added that Brazil has sold arms to Libya in the past, but not now. The Brazilian Government tonight released an official note lamenting the use of violence in the Mediterranean and indicated that this is not the proper means for the solution of disagreements.

Further on Arms, Sarney Trip

PY161453 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Apr 86
[By (Irineo Tamanini)]

[Excerpts] Planalto Palace international affairs adviser Rubem Ricupero has said that the Libyan-U.S. conflict will not affect the visit that President Jose Sarney will make to Europe between 3 and 10 May. He said that the president's visit to Portugal and Cape Verde is an independent initiative that has nothing to do with the current events.
[Begin recording] [Ricupero]

[Reporter] Concerning the arms sales to Libya, will Brazil (?reduce) these sales?

[Ricupero] This subject was not discussed. No one mentioned the arms sales issue. There are (?several inaccurate) reports on the subject. [end recording]

President Sarney will be kept abreast of the events in the Mediterranean by Itamaraty, which recieves information from the Brazilian ambassador in Tripoli, (Natildo Marciano da Rocha).

SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON LIBYAN REQUEST FOR AID

PY161413 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Brazil Vladimir Chernyshev has said that the U.S. attack against Libya has increased world tension. He added that the attack has also harmed mankind [words indistinct]. As for Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's request for Warsaw Pact assistance, the ambassador said that the Pact is clearly against aggravating the situation.

GOVERNMENT URGES UN TO STUDY U.S.-LIBYA CLASH

PA151817 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1755 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Colombia has condemned international terrorism and voiced its concern over world peace. Our Foreign Ministry today announced there is a consensus among the five Contadora [as heard] countries to sign the document for peace and cooperation in Central America, including Nicaragua. The announcement was made by the Colombian foreign minister who also voiced our government's stand concerning the U.S. attack against Libya.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] While condemning terrorism in any form in the world, the Colombian Government urged the UN Security Council to begin studying and analyzing the conflict between the United States and Libya.

[Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo] Colombia, once again, condemns all terrorist actions and recalls that in one such action -- the attack against the TWA plane -- a person born in our country was killed. We voice our concern over world peace and a possible escalation of violence and terrorism in the world, as a result of the sorrowful episode that occurred last night that we feel should be urgently analyzed by the UN Security Council in order for the conflict to be solved for the benefit of world peace. [end recording]

SENATOR SEEKS U.S. EXPLANATION OF LIBYA ATTACK

PA161306 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Senator Ernesto Samper Pizano has said that Colombia should seek an objective position and ask the United States to explain the reasons that led it to carry out the attack on Libya. The Liberal senator said:

[Begin recording] This conflict changes the world balance. As Colombians, we cannot disregard this. What is taking place is an East-West confrontation. In the measure that the Soviet intervention is felt in Libya to support Libya from what we could describe as U.S. aggression, world peace will be threatened. We must not forget that the (?attack) on Libya comes at a time when the U.S. Senate [as heard] is getting ready to approve aid for Nicaragua [as heard]. The Central American conflict, a conflict that had apparently been a local conflict, is assuming international dimensions. We are all [words indistinct] so that we can avoid any Soviet interference [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Ernesto Samper also said that Libya's conduct has been more of terrorist threats than terrorism itself. He reiterated that world opinion has the right to know the U.S. reasons for carrying out such actions.

PORT ADOPTS MEASURES TO PROTECT U.S. TOURISTS

PA161302 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Authorities have ordered special vigilance and security measures in aircraft and especially in vessels bringing tourists to Cartagena. The special security measures were specifically adopted in the tourist port of Cartagena to prevent terrorist attacks against U.S. tourists in the wake of their country's conflict with Libya. The harbor master's office in Barranquilla and Cartagena agreed to adopt antiterrorist measures in areas under its control.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON ANTITERRORISM POLICY

PY161939 Asuncion Red Privada de Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Saldivar has stated our government's position on international terrorism, which has been presented before the United Nations. The problem has now come to a head with the U.S. action against Libya.

[Begin Saldivar recording] The government of President Stroessner some time ago stated, both at the United Nations and the OAS, its position on the problem of international terrorism. We proposed then that the member-countries should initiate studies leading to an agreement on terrorism and the various forms it has taken. We maintain a firm and unchanging position toward terrorism. At the most recent UN General Assembly in October 1985, as well as at the OAS Assembly in Cartagena, Colombia, in December 1985, we reiterated our position that terrorism in all its forms must be fought and that the sanctuaries of terrorism must be eliminated. Had our proposal been converted into action at that time, and had the Paraguayan position mustered the consensus we know exists in many countries that for various reasons did not sufficently support our position calling for an agreement on terrorism, we would not have had to witness the events that recently took place.

We condemn all expressions of terrorism, and we repudiate all international terrorist acts that have no respect for lives and human rights. We support strict compliance with the UN Charter and have always lived up to our international commitments. [end recording]

EDITORIAL SUPPORTS 'RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE'

PY161826 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 10

[Editorial: "A Punitive Act or a Spark That Could Ignite War?"]

[Text] As announced, and as expected for more than a year, the United States has launched a punitive raid against Libya in retaliation for repeated terrorist acts committed by Libyan agents against U.S. citizens and property.

The final decision was triggered by the evidence of Libya's involvement in two recent terrorist attacks: the first, a bomb placed in a TWA plane that went off miraculously when the aircraft was flying at low altitude, thus causing the deaths of only three [as published] passengers; and the second, another bomb that exploded in a discotheque frequented by U.S. servicemen in West Berlin.

Both attacks were staged after the United States warned about the reprisals it would make and after the confrontation in the Gulf of Sidra where three Libyan missile-carrying vessels were sunk by U.S. aircraft operating from the aircraft carriers Coral Sea and America.

The right to reprisal is an extension of the personal right to self-defense and is fully accepted under international law. No aggressor in personal terms can expect that his attack will go unpunished. In the same vein, no aggressor nation can expect otherwise, either.

Is Libya an aggressor nation? Denunciations with hard evidence that Libya is a center for training international terrorists and a main financing agent have been made for quite some time. Modern terrorism, which can hit anywhere and everywhere, requires special training and strong logistical support, as well as well-equipped centers of information, evaluation, and documentation. Today's terrorists do not hit blindly. They attack only carefully chosen targets and do so precisely at the time that they can cause the most damage -- or be the most repugnant.

Libya has been openly involved in a large number of terrorist acts, and its territory has served, and continues to serve, as sanctuary for terrorists who are not on missions. Detailed information exists on at least four terrorist-training camps in Libya, as well as strong evidence of Libyan assistance to terrorists groups around the world. The Buenos Aires press has recently reported serious denunciations of Libya's responsibility in financing the Shining Path Maoist guerrillas in Peru and for reorganizing the People's Revolutionary Army and the Montoneros in Argentina.

In the face of this mountain of evidence, which affect the large portion of the Western world that Libya is challenging, there can be no doubt but to brand the Al-Qadhdhafi government as an aggressor, thus more than justifying any reaction against it.

The U.S. action has not been a war action, but a punitive and retaliatory action, limited in its specific objectives and restricted by the response of the initial aggressor country. But it will certainly escalate into a war should the aggression continue and should Al-Qadhdhafi's sensible allies fail, in the difficult effort, to bring the Libyan tyrant back to his senses.

The world is thus on the verge of a crisis, because a war between the United States and Libya could lead to a world war. The patience of the West, at least of the United States, has no doubt been overtaxed. Therefore, what it is needed is a worldwide gesture of good sense that will induce Libya to behave as a responsible nation. At this time, any support for Al-Qadhdhafi can serve only to persuade him to harden his already thoughtless position and, consequently, to push the world closer toward the feared catastrophe.

It seem that the time has come for the "nonaligned" nations to understand that no one can continue to play with fire, because consequences have to be faced if reason does not prevail.

Depending on the world's reaction, the bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi could be no more than a limited punitive action, or it could be the spark of world war III.

FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE ON U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

PY161311 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 0015 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] We have information from the Foreign Ministry:

The Foreign Ministry has released official communique No (?487), which will now be read: In view of the air attack carried out last night by combat aircraft of the United States of America against cities and installations in Libyan territory, following accusations that Libya had performed terrorist acts, the Government of Peru declares the following:

1. It rejects actions by any state that depart from the norms of international coexistence established in the UN Charter, which, in addition to imposing other commitments, proscribes the threatened or actual use of force, or any acts of violence within international relations, and establishes that peaceful solutions to the conflicts, as stated in said international document, should be sought.

2. It condemns terrorism in all its forms, whether practiced by individuals or by states, whatever the motives for its use within national or international jurisdiction.

3. It notes the urgent need to strengthen the international and miltilateral system embodied in the United Nations as the only channel to ensure civilized coexistence based on law and justice among states.

That was the communique from the Foreign Ministry on the U.S. intervention in Libya released by the General Information Division of the Foreign Ministry.

Lima, 15 April 1986.

Sanchez Criticizes Attack

PY161313 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Vice President Luis Alberto Sanchez today said that the U.S. violent action against Libyan territory cannot be reconciled under the norms of international law, nor under the human rights rules dictated by the United Nations to member-countries. No one can take justice into his own hands, Sanchez said. He added: The threat to countries in the Mediterranean basin and the violence carried into Libyan territory call for censure, because these attitudes are at odds with international law.

Senate Condemns Action

PY161405 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0215 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] The Senate tonight approved a joint motion of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] and the United Left [IU] condemning the U.S. attack against the republic of Libya, considering it an act of aggression that threatens world peace. The Senate also called on the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as on the governments of the world, to immediately refrain from any belligerent action in the world and to rely on UN guarantees. The motion also condemns terrorism as an immoral instrument with which to seek justice. The APRA-IU motion was approved by a majority. The Christian Popular Party voted against the motion on the grounds that it says nothing about the responsibility of Libya.

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON LIBYAN CLASH

PY160057 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0036 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Relay by Thomas Friedman from the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry -- live]

[Text] We are reporting from the Foreign Ministry, which has just released an official communique on the situation between the United States and Libya. Here is the text of the communique:

The Uruguayan Government is following with great concern the serious military events in the Mediterranean and their dangerous implications for peace in that region and the world at large. Under the present circumstances the Uruguayan Government wishes to reiterate once again its staunch repudiation of all terrorist actions and its firm support for joint international efforts aimed at struggling against this scourge that plagues mankind today.

At the same time it reiterates its belief in peace based on international law and political negotiations which are the valid means for resolving international conflicts. It does not believe in unilateral, strong-arm solutions which may lead to an uncontrollable escalation of violence that would threaten international coexistence. The Uruguayan Government also calls upon the parties involved in the conflict to exercise prudence and to make full use of the existing mechanisms and international institutions whose purpose is to preserve peace in the world.

This was the communique of the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry on the Mediterranean crisis.

MONTEVIDEO DEMONSTRATORS BURN REAGAN EFFIGY

PY170223 Paris AFP in Spanish 0156 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Apr (AFP) -- Approximately 5,000 persons marched tonight through downtown Montevideo and burned an effigy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, protesting the U.S. attacks against Libya. The demonstrators, who were carrying banners of the Broad Front leftist coalition, shouted hostile slogans against the U.S. Government and distributed pamphlets along 18 de Julio Avenue, the capital's main avenue. An effigy of Reagan and a puppet with a hat with the colors of the U.S. flag were hung from a lamppost and burned before the crowd. The demonstration took place at the same time that Juan Raul Ferreira, president of the Senate's International Affairs Committee proclaimed his support for the initiative of Felipe Gonzalez, chief of the Spanish Government, and said that it is necessary to create a type of Contadora Group for the Mediterranean.

LUSINCHI STATEMENT REGARDING U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

PA160300 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] One of the first reactions to the attack against Libya by U.S. aircraft has been that of President Jaime Lusinchi.

[Begin recording] Regarding the bombing of some cities and military facilities in Libya by the United States, we, as current members of the UN Security Council, will act in accordance with our love for peace and our adherence to international law, as well as with a clear sense of prudence and balance. This is our philosophical answer. We are and will continue to be lovers of peace as members of a key UN organization, that is, the Security Council. Venezuela, committed to these principles and this tradition, will in consequence act prudently and in equilibrium as determined by this condition. [end recording]

Commenting on the consequences of the U.S. bombing of Libya, Acting Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo said that Venezuela, as a member of the UN Security Council, rejects any situation that tends to alter world peace. This concern of Venezuela fits the country's international policy principle to respect the peoples' self-determination and unrestricted support for every initiative for world detente. The acting foreign minister and a qualified group of advisers follow the events step by step and keep in contact over the telephone with Venezuelan Ambassador to Tripoli Dr Jose Alejandro Sune Gorrin. Cautiously and prudently, Nava Carrillo explained the situation of Venezuelans in Libya.

[Begin recording] Everything is normal at the embassy. There is nothing to regret regarding our personnel, at least as far as the embassy has officially learned. Our facilities and the embassy's activities have continued to be normal, fortunately. [end recording]

The secretary of the Libyan bureau in our country, a sort of ambassador, Ahmed Jarroud and his assistant set up shifts to keep the diplomatic office open day and night. Also, Venezuelan security members stood guard near the Libyan mission's office as soon as the events were reported. Jarroud read for the reporters a 10-point communique describing the bombings as indiscriminate and criminal.

Government Issues Communique

PA170200 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Today the national government issued a communique in which it rejects the use of violence as a means of solving conflicts among nations. In the note, which was published after consultations between Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi and President Jaime Lusinchi, the Venzuelan Government establishes its position in regard to the bombing of Libya by the United States. The Venezuelan Government, the communique states, expresses its serios concern over the events of the past few hours in the Mediterranean Sea, which have confronted the United States and the Libyan Government. As a peace-loving country and a state that has always followed the regulations and principles of international law, Venezuela rejectes the use of violence to solve differences among nations, and it rejects any transgression of the system to which all states owe respect, and which for us is the only means of saving humanity form unforeseeable risks and catastrophes, the note said.

As a member of the UN Security Council, Venezuela will make every effort at this ranking world organization to promote -- through political and diplomatic negotiation -- efforts that will lead to the restoration of peace and the fulfillment of the duties of all member nations, the official Venzuelan Government note states.

Politicians Condemn Attacks

PA161746 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1641 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Caracas, 16 Apr (DPA) -- Today in Caracas Venezuelan politicians have termed the attack perpetrated on Monday by U.S. planes on the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi as "censurable and difficult to justify in light of international law." According to press reports, many civilians and soldiers were killed.

Ruben Carpio Castillo, president of the Senate Foreign Policy Commission (Social Democrat, ruling party), commented on previous attacks by the United States in the Gulf of Sidra and pointed out: "On that occasion they appealed to international law on sovereignty and jurisdiction, but now they invoke charges that Al-Qadhdhafi directs, sponsors, and finances terrorist activities against North Americans." He added: "On that occasion, the targets were Libyan ships in the Gulf of Sidra and a missile base, while the second one was directed at the Libyan capital, and it seems that very innocent persons lost their lives, victims of terrorist attacks, as happened to passengers on civilian planes."

The senator noted: "This is an example of what happens with indiscriminate bombing. It will be very difficult to explain this attack in light of international law and the UN statutes regarding the respect for the sovereignty of nations and the renunciation of the use of force to solve problems."

The Christian Democratic party also condemned the U.S. bombing on Libya as well as the terrorist acts. Its national committee "strongly" rejected any use of violence to solve conflicts between countries, according to one of party's spokesmen.

For (Interim) Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo, the bombing of Libya "is of concern."

The Venezuelan left wing has also harshly condemned the U.S. attacks. Jose Vicente Ran Rangel, twice presidential candidate, said: "It is unacceptable, something that violat violates the most basic principles of international law."

Senator Luis Beltran Prieto Figuero (Socialist) believes: "The United States is doing everything possible to provoke a third world war." The former Venezuelan political leader also believes that: "The Soviet Union will not intervene because the important thing in this case is that the whole world is against Reagan, even his European allies, except the UK Government. Fortunately for mankind, European nations still have the capacity to react to this barbarity and disagree with this massive killing by Reagan and his gang of criminals."

LUSINCHI WILL NOT SUPPORT OIL EMBARGO ON U.S.

PA151754 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Last-minute news on the Libya-U.S. crisis: Libya, supported by Iran, today maneuvered to obtain OPEC support for an oil embargo against the United States in retaliation for its air attacks.

It is expected that the Libya-U.S. conflict will dominate the entire OPEC meeting. The ministers are discussing prices and production; analysts do not believe that the 13 cartel members will reach a consensus to approve this Libyan request.

We repeat, President Lusinchi, during a press conference in Montevideo, said that Venezuela would not support an oil embargo against the United States.

Energy Minister Concurs

PA161638 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1610 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Report by Miguel Shapira]

[Text] Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi has stated in Montevideo that Venezuela would not support the oil embargo that Libya has requested be imposed against the United States. Venezuelan Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti has ratified that decision.

ACTING PRESIDENT ON PROMOTING BORDER POPULATION

PA160338 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Recent incidents at the National Guard Mata de Coco garrison on the Colombian-Venezuelan border demonstrate the definite need to promote a policy of border population, acting President Octavio Lepage said today.

Questioned by newsmen regarding the existence of information on whether the latest border incidents were caused by an organization formed jointly by Colombian guerrillas and Venezuelan subversive groups, Lepage said that now there is room for speculation and various interpretations, and this is why an investigation is under way to establish the identity of the subversive group that attacked the National Guard. Later, measures will be applied to counteract and prevent similar actions in the future. The acting president added that these sporadic incidents should not be exaggerated, as there was an effective and immediate response from the National Guard.

We must consider, Lepage insisted, that it is easy -- due to the vastness of our borders and their sparse population -- for subversive groups to enter.

[Begin Lepage recording] We must implement or intensify an awareness campaign to motivate, persuade, and encourage Venezuelans -- young people -- to respond to the national, patriotic challenge of establishing themselves in the border areas so that these regions will not be vacant and subject to the risk of occupation by any group. [end recording]

The Venezuelan Armed Forces will continue the investigation of the recent incidents on the border.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO ITALY, ROK -- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi has sworn in the new ambassadors to Italy and the Republic of Korea. They are Luis Manuel Penalver and Brigade General Gaudy Eli Gimenez Rodriguez respectively. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 3 Apr 86 p 1-14 PA]

SENATOR CONDEMNS U.S. ACTIONS AGAINST LIBYA

FL161315 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0120 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 15 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Today the Senate of the republic condemned U.S. violent actions against Libya and urged the countries of the world to acknowledge how dangerous and dramatic the policy of force is.

From the Senate's podium, Senator Victor Manzanilla Schaffer said violence is not the way to end terrorism, which concerns all and we all reject.

He underscored that Mexico's foreign policy, which has been understood and supported by international organizations, has never agreed with violence as means to solve differences. He asserted that the world is worried because violence begets more violence and that the problem between the United States and Libya exemplifies this.

Senate Leader Comments

FL152356 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2130 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 15 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Libyan-U.S. conflict must be resolved within the international judicial order, Mexican Senate leader Antonio Riva Palacio has said. He added that it is the president of the Republic, Miguel de la Madrid, who must determine Mexico's posture in this respect, which will fall within the framework of a peace-loving nation, within our traditional principles of foreign policy.

In an interview with a group of 20 women and 1 gentleman, Riva Palacio said it was a lamentable event and that the conflict is of grave concern for the risk it implies for world peace and human survival.

We reject violence and acts of terrorism and believe that human solidarity is more important than anything else. Mexico opposes using force in solving conflicts, he said. He continued: The event affects us, but our position is simple: Nothing that contradicts our principles of foreign policy pleases us. On the other hand, he said, a legislative power that is vigorous, critical, and capable of responding to the national realities is not derived from the artificial insertion of other ideological currents, which have always had access to the Senate through the vote.

'STATE OF ALERT' AT BORDERS WITH UNITED STATES

PA152029 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] The United States has intensified the inspections at international airports, ports and bridges at the U.S. borders with Mexico to prevent possible entrance of Libyan terrorists. Our correspondent in Tamaulipas Alfonso Buenfil reports that Washington has given instructions to cancel permits and vacations to personnel appointed at border posts.

A few hours after the U.S. attack on Libya there is a state of alert at all Mexican borders with the United States. U.S. immigration authorities have concentrated their inspections, are searching for fake documents, and are checking vehicles. Thorough inspections are also being performed at airports in southern Texas.

ABADIA, LEGISLATORS CONDEMN VIOLENCE, TERRORISM

PA161336 Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish 0010 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Through our foreign minister, Panama today voiced its stand concerning the U.S. attack on Libya. In addition, some representatives of the government's political party also gave their opinions. After condemning violence regardless of where it may happen, and warning about possible terrorist actions in the canal area, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias voiced today the Panamanian Government's official stand concerning the U.S. attack on Libya.

[Begin recording] We have watched with a great deal of concern the incident that took place between Libya and the United States. As Panamanians, as a nation which has always been at the forefront of any peace efforts in the Central American region, we cannot look kindly upon any sort of violence. We cannot approve of any sort of violence, regardless of who is causing it or where it comes from. We condemn terrorism in all of its forms, we have said this on several occasions. We consider there should be joint willingness to cope with that threat in a more organized manner, more civilized, and more in line with that threat. We cannot state, or decide what any country of the world should do or not do in order to safeguard its own national interests. [end recording]

The foreign minister advised that measures are being taken to protect the canal area from any possible terrorist attacks. The diplomat neither condemned the U.S. Government nor supported the Libyan Government, but he reiterated his rejection to violence and terrorism just the same.

Meanwhile, Pedro Brin Martinez, a PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] legislator and chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the National Assembly, said:

[Begin recording] From the point of view of the UN Charter and international law, this action must be condemned. We cannot agree with any type of violence, regardless from where it comes. [end recording]

Legislator Luis Gomez, spokesman for the PRD wing, added:

[Begin recording] In the UN (?Charter), nothing justifies the interference of one state over another. There is no excuse for that. Today, it is done with Libya, tomorrow with Panama. We already had our share on 9 January 1964. No matter how many excuses it [the United States] gave on 9 January 1964, nothing justified that an army enslaved the Panamanian people. No matter how many excuses the United States has now, nothing justifies having bombed civilian sectors and violated the borders of the Middle East countries. [end recording]

Meanwhile, student and political groups in Panama City demonstrated today in solidarity with Libya. Several student political groups of the University of Panama protested in front of the U.S. Embassy over the bombing on the Arab republic of Libya [as heard]. The demonstrators shouted anti-U.S. slogans and carried posters protesting what they described as military aggression. They then went to the Libyan Embassy, where they staged a demonstration supporting the Libyan people and government. Through a translator, the cultural and information attache of Libya in Panama, (Senebrin), said the following to the local press:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified translator] We are a small country, devoted to its progress and development. A terrorist state has attacked us.

[Reporter] In the event of a conflict, will Libya attack the military bases stationed in canal zone [as heard]?

[Translator] No comment.

[Reporter] Any reports on General [as heard] Qadhdhafi?

[Translator] No more comments. No comment.

[Reporter] Is he dead, as the international press says?

[Translator] He is alive and kicking. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON LIBYA ACTION, CANAL SECURITY

PA161259 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 16 Apr 86 pp A 1, A 6

[By Mercedes K. Morris]

[Excerpts] Panama's Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias yesterday went on record as vehemently disapproving all violent measures to settle arguments or seek solution between governments. The minister was clear in stating that Panama's Government upheld such a position when questioned on the official government's position on the United States attack on Libyan targets last Monday night.

But, Abadia Arias explained, that his government also recognizes that each nation must answer to its own security threats as it sees fit, and "Panama will always try to find solution via the diplomatic channels."

Abadia Arias explained that a few weeks back, the commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, (FDP) General Manuel Antonio Noriega, warned "responsibility and seriously" about a possible threat to the Panama Canal from terrorist activities. "Political passions had more influence than the seriousness of the warning issued by the FDP...and was even laughed off by some," Abadia Arias said. "We can be the target of a terrorist attack" because of the strategic value of the Panama Canal. "As a pioneer of peaceful efforts in the Central American area, we cannot look upon violent solutions with good feelings", he added.

The Panamanian foreign minister was quick to point out that Panama condemns all forms of terrorism and considers that there must be a regional unity to combat in a civilized manner what he called the "invisible enemy" of terrorism. Foreign Minister Abadia Arias did say that security measures around the Panama Canal area have been increased, after Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's threat to attack all U.S. offices and personnel around the world.

About 50 leftist leaning students gathered outside the U.S. Embassy in Panama City, Tuesday picketing and protesting against the U.S. attack on Libya. The students, members of the Student Revolutionary Federation (FER-29) and the Anti-Interventionist Youth Movement, stopped Balboa Avenue traffic for approximately 45 minutes, handing out flyers to passersby and auto drivers.

Concerning U.S. residents in Panama, there has not been a specific advisory, but the Information Officer of the United States Information Service, Cynthia Farrell, said Tuesday that it was "open season" for terrorists, after Al-Qadhdhafi formulated his threats.

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ COMMENTS ON U.S.-LIBYA CLASH

PA161320 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1237 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has stated that the role that the Libyan head of state plays in world terrorism triggered the U.S. reaction. He said that the fact that a situation like this one is being resolved through violent means increases international tension. Gutierrez warned that this incident between the United States and Libya could be a step that will escalate violence between the superpowers and groups that oppose one another around the world.

The attack that the United States launched against Libya 2 days ago is a natural reason for concern for those who believe in dialogue and negotiation, the foreign minister said. On the one hand the policies of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi promoting and sponsoring terrorism around the world were certain to cause a reaction like the one that took place, he said, adding that now one must think about its repercussions and tensions.

It would be desirable for those international organizations that sponsor dialogues intervene to prevent the problem from becoming worse, the foreign minister said.

In overall terms Costa Rica's foreign policy has always been limited to setting forth positions on situations that concern the country, he said. Therefore, it will not be necessary for the government to make an official statement on the Libyan-U.S. problem, he said. Gutierrez said that traditionally Costa Rica has only commented on international events directly affecting Costa Rica.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister said that the use of Libyan bombs in West Berlin and financing of terrorists set a poor precedent because those activities generate violence. He added that if one were to condemn the U.S. air strike one would necessarily have to condemn the fact that Libya's oil resources are used to finance international terrorism.

However, Mr Gutierrez said that these irrefutable actions should have been countered in some other way, not through the action carried out 2 days ago because it is not a good idea, just as it is also a bad idea to openly finance terrorism.

Further Remarks

PA161925 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1840 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has commented on whether the United States had a right to bomb Tripoli. He said it is debatable what one is entitled to do at the international level. It is necessary to recall, for example, when U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt adopted a decision against several rulers of northern Africa who were supporting actions against the United States. Therefore, one should analyze recent terrorist actions promoted by Libya, which have been so obvious that the FRG had to expel Libyan officials for having placed a bomb that recently went off in Berlin, the foreign minister added.

Concerning the USSR's stand on the Libyan-U.S. conflict, Minister Gutierrez said that the Soviet Union is a friend of Al-Qadhdhafi and that the USSR was already aware of the U.S. actions. He added that it is to be expected that this conflict will become a conflict between the large powers of the world.

As for the cancellation of the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said that all of these actions increase tension. He added that on a personal basis and on behalf of the Costa Rican Government, he hopes all international problems can be solved through dialogue. Undoubtedly, suspending this meeting is not the best thing for anyone, Foreign Minister Gutierrez added.

As for repercussions on Central American problems, the foreign minister said he did not think there would be any, although Libya has very good relations with Nicaragua. He concluded by saying that he thinks the only connection between Central America and the Libyan-U.S. conflict is the fact that the United States is involved in both conflicts.

PRESIDENT MONGE DENIES U.S. ECONOMIC PRESSURE

PA160009 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Statement by President Luis Alberto Monge on 14 April in San Jose -- recorded]

[Excerpt] The reports accusing the United States of exerting economic pressure on Costa Rica are absolutely false. The ones who have made the accusations are those opposed to President Reagan's efforts to help the Nicaraguan rebel groups. They think that by doing this they will weaken President Reagan's position. I wish to remind you that the Nicaraguan Government and its sympathizers here in Costa Rica are constantly saying that to receive economic aid from the United States, President Reagan has placed as a condition that I militarize the country, that I organize an army and get involved in the conflict against Nicaragua. That is not true. I have had to reject such accusations many times. The same thing is happening again.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS -- Three new ambassadors presented their credentials to President Luis Alberto Monge yesterday. They are: David H. Pere from Panama; Claudia Chamorro from Nicaragua; and Rodolfo Alberto Henriquez from El Salvador. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Apr 86 p 3 PA]

EL SALVADOR

EDITORIALS VIEW CONTADORA 'FAILURE', 'LIMITATIONS'

Radio Cadena Sonora

PA152252 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Editorial: "Contadora and Its Recent Failure"]

[Text] For some time now our editorials have underscored that Contadora's role in Central America has always been one of pacifier, and it never had the capacity to achieve peace because of its limitations, very little negotiating power, and internal differences. Even though we wish it were not true, the issue of peace in Central America is slipping through the fingers of the Contadora Group countries.

We must be realistic when viewing this situation.

The last word, or rather the decision to allow bloodshed to continue in the Central American countries, especially Nicaragua and El Salvador, is in the hands of the leaders of the superpowers. To say that the Contadora Group can normalize the situation is a lie, and those who believe in Contadora and its Support Group are either mistaken or simply fools.

When President Duarte said that the issue of peace in the area must be discussed from a global standpoint, he was correct. The civil wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua are very closely linked to the power or the hegemony that the superpowers want to impose. Armamentism in Nicaragua and Honduras, the land and sea military maneuvers in Honduras, are also closely linked to the hegemonic efforts of the superpowers. Nicaragua's position at the recent Contadora foreign ministers' meeting in Panama was a position based on the intentions of the superpowers that sponsors them and helps them economically as well as with weapons. Nicaragua spoke very clearly during the Panama meeting. Unfortunately, the other countries present at this meeting refused to understand what Foreign Minister D'Escoto was saying or pretended to be deaf. We agree that it is impossible for the Sandinists to sign a peace treaty that calls for the supervision of their arsenal and for the evacuation of their 3,000 Cuban and Russian advisers when at their borders, great military preparations and maneuvers are carried out aimed at affecting their domestic tranquillity and giving support to the counterrevolutionary forces that are bent on overthrowing them. It would be the same as asking El Salvador to sign an agreement that includes free navigation on the Gulf of Fonseca and banning the Salvadoran Navy from protecting the area.

We feel that the Contadora Group and its Support Group have nothing to do in Central America. They should leave the negotiations in the hands of the superpowers and let them be the ones to decide, based on their interests, the future of these small, poor, and humble Central American countries that today sadly see how their youths are dying for a cause that is not ours.

EL DIARIO DE HOY

PA160218 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 14 Apr 86 p 7

[Editorial: "A New Failure of the Contadora Process"]

[Text] As it was not very difficult to forecast, the Contadora Group's latest meeting has failed, because the Sandinists refused to sign the accord that all the other governments of the region had accepted.

The negotiations, which have been dragging on for nearly 5 years, make sense only if the area is pacified through them and law and order and some measure of domestic legality are established in each of the states. For this it is indispensable to demilitarize the Central American countries, that all advisers, troops, and foreign contingents leave, and that arsenals and the number of men under arms be lowered to the necessary levels.

Only, however, if area organizations on an international basis can supervise the fulfillment of the accords reached by the parties involved and have authority to enforce these accords will a peaceful solution to the current conflict be achieved. This is exactly what Managua rejects.

It is also worth mentioning that the proposal presented by the four Contadora countries only formally advocates the red gang's stepping down from power, since it is very difficult to start a democratic process in a country that enjoys strong protection from a foreign power, even more so if this power is the Soviet Union.

The rest of the aspirations have proved an illusion considering the history of the Sandinists, their domestic purges, and their total dependency on Havana and Moscow.

This is why the members of the Contadora Group and the governments that back this initiative must realize that the Sandinists are held captive by their alliances and have lost their chance at adopting their own policies regarding their relations with the rest of Central America. In other words, Contadora has failed, not so much for lack of goodwill on the part of Managua -- supposing that it ever existed -- but because the Nicaraguan regime is not in a position to agree to Cuban and Soviet advisors' leaving Central America, since Moscow cannot agree to this demand.

Here we see a contradiction in the Sandinists' stance. They arm themselves against an aggression by their Central American neighboring countries and, most of all, the United States. At the same time, however, they reject a treaty that would make it impossible for the Sandinists' neighbors or the United States to attack Nicaragua. It is interesting to observe that the Sandinists, knowing beforehand that they could not accept the terms of a regional accord sponsored by the Contadora Group, have continued to participate in the meetings.

This, however, can be easily explained. The longer the negotiations extend, the more time the Managua commanders will have to consolidate their power and turn into an unremovable bastion this new communist foothold in the center of the hemisphere.

40 PERCENT OF SAN SALVADOR WITHOUT POWER

PA152314 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Excerpts] A source of the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission, CEL, has reported to this radio station that more than 40 percent of San Salvador is without power due to guerrilla sabotage of power lines. Although the service has been restored in a sector of this capital, it will be suspended in other sectors as part of the rationing initiated in most of San Salvador earlier today. The CEL spokesman said that early today rebels dynamited pylons and posts of the power system north of San Salvador between the Cerron Grande hydroelectric plant and Nejapa and San Juan Opico. In addition, the FMLN destroyed primary lines between San Rafael Cedros and the 15 September hydroelectric plant between Cuscatlan and Cabanas Departments in the central area of the country.

It has also been reported that the national police today invited the press to visit a hideout recently used by a group of kidnappers to hold those abducted. The hideout is located at Km 32 on the highway to Santa Ana. It has been reported that patrolling has been stepped up in northern Usulutan Department while the Marines Battalion executes a counterinsurgency operation in the southern sector to dislodge rebel groups operating in this area.

FMLN CLAIMS U.S. ADVISERS WITH ARMY BATTALION

PA160414 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] We have received a report from the Corinto area indicating that members of the Lenca Battalion, Military Detachment No 4, have been seen accompanied by U.S. advisers while patrolling the Joateca and Corinto areas.

This report on the presence of U.S. advisers in the Army patrols is to be added to a report recently received at Radio Venceremos saying that Colonel Mendez and kidnapper Colonel Estaben are also accompanied by U.S. advisers in the north of San Miguel Department. In this latter area, the U.S. advisers have directly participated in meetings with the people to try, fruitlessly, to restructure civilian defense. Such is the U.S. Embassy's desperation for the continued failure of its counterinsurgency plans.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO 'CONCERNED' OVER U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

PA170323 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0253 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Guatemala, 16 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- President Vincio Cerezo declared today that his government is against terrorism and is concerned "over the use of measures of force," upon stating his position in regard to the U.S. attack on Libya.

"I reject terror as a means of political pressure, because it is indiscriminate and unjust," the Christian Democratic president of Guatelama said. "I am concerned over measures of force against terrorism, because in this case it violates international law and it emphasizes the polarization of the conflict," Cerezo added.

The Guatemalan head of state pointed out that the motives and justifications President Reagan announced to launch the bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi are being analyzed by the government "to reach our own conclusions," although, he added, "for now we condemn violence."

"This conflict," Cerezo added, "forces us to intensify security measures, because we would not want a wave of violence to begin in Guatemala."

Cerezo recalled that "recently there was a rumor of a bomb placed on a commercial flight" that forced me to delay my flight to Panama after a technical stopover at the La Aurora International Airport in Guatemala City. "Fortunately," Cerezo added, "it was only a false alarm, but we must be prepared, even if some people are affected by this, because I would not want a wave of terror unleashed here as in other parts of the world."

In last Saturday's edition the newspaper EL GRAFICO stated that under the threat of detonating a bomb on an Iberia Airlines flight that lands here on Thursdays, pro-Libyan commandos could carry out actions in Central America and that "the Libyan leader could attempt terrorist actions."

Foreign Minister Comments

PA161922 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] Guatemala hopes that the problem between Libya and the United States "will not cause a generalized conflict," Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita said yesterday in commenting on the attack by U.S. aircraft against the city of Tripoli. Quinonez said: "Guatemala believes terrorism is unacceptable. Last year the United Nations itself condemned it."

Any act of violence staged without previously exhausting dialogue is also unacceptable.

We believe that terrorism can spread if it is not fought, but it should not be controlled through excessively violent means. We hope the Libyan situation is handled cautiously to prevent the incident from generating a generalized conflict, the foreign minister said.

Regarding the Belize problem, Mr Quinonez said he believes that the talks with the United Kingdom should be resumed to seek a solution. However, we "must not hold talks for the sake of holding talks, but to seek viable solutions, new postures."

PRESIDENT CEREZO DISCUSSES DOMESTIC ISSUES

PA160414 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Aside from the routine activities to elect new leaders at the national conventions of four parties over the weekend, the most outstanding development has been an assertion by Alfonso Cabrera, the new secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy [DC] and president of Congress. Yesterday Cabrera said during that meeting that during his administration former President Romeo Lucas ordered the assassination of Vinicio Cerezo and that two attempts were made to do so, but both failed. Cerezo was interviewed tonight regarding this assertion.

[Cerezo] "In the particular case of the incumbent president we have no intention of investigating this type of rumor. We feel that any such investigation would be regarded and viewed as a case of political persecution, and what was a criminal act at the time would become an act of political persecution against a former president. We do not intend to make it an act of this nature."

Cerezo declined comment on Cabrera's assertion that Lucas Garcia tried to bribe him into not taking part in opposition activities with an offer of 25,000 quetzales.

[Cerezo] "I would rather not comment on a matter of this type until I make a specific decision. I want to discuss this with my political advisers. At this moment, when Guatemala is undergoing a different process, we do not wish to turn into a public issue a problem and a speech delivered by the secretary general at a party meeting on issues with which everybody is familiar.

"Certainly you will recall that many attempts were made on my life and that many DC members died during General Lucas' tenure, as did many thousands of other Guatemalans. I particularly will not take any action in this regard, and if I do decide to investigate any past case I would do so with murder cases because I believe that the Guatemalan president is here to think of the future and not to seek vengeance because of past actions."

Regarding the recent statements by the Coordinating Committee of Farming, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations [CACIF] with respect to the economic reorganization plan, Cerezo said that the government insists on reaching agreement with all sectors.

[Cerezo] "Well, we have already informed them of our decision to try to have these taxes to be able to move ahead with the social projects, and I must say that we are insisting that they fulfill a responsibility we feel they have with the Guatemalan people. We are trying to reason with them, and at this moment the discussion does not lie on whether or not to levy the taxes but on the amount of the taxes. The government is trying to uphold its position because we feel that we must make headway with all plans that seek benefits for the middle class and working class sectors of the population."

In addition, and always concerning state administration policies, Cerezo denied assertions that new taxes are being considered under the policy to be pursued by the government.

[Cerezo] "We have not applied the tactics of outlining what we are going to do because we have already noted that this government follows the policy of working with the cards on the table and always telling the truth.

"We have said that we are not going to establish new taxes until we carry out an overall fiscal and tax reform, and that is exactly what we are going to do. I think the Guatemalan people will get used to the idea that when this government says it is going to do something it will and that when it says it will not do something it will not. I am a man who always keeps his word and, therefore, if I said that there will not be any taxes other than those included in the reorganization plan, then it is the truth."

Finally, President Cerezo severely criticized Mrs Ines Montenegro de Garcia, top leader of the Mutual Support Group, because of the statements she made in several European countries about alleged violations of human rights in Guatemala.

[Cerezo] "She has the right to hold any opinions she wishes, and she also has the right to lie. She has lied on this occasion. She is saying things we Guatemalans know are false. There has been an absolute decrease in crimes that could be said to be politically motivated and for the first time in the history of Guatemala -- a fact that she preposterously fails to recognize -- the five people we have arrested because we feel that they have links with the guerrillas are at the orders of the courts of the Republic at this moment.

"She has a personal problem, and we must understand it. She lost her husband some time ago, and this always tends to radicalize people. However, as I said and repeat, she is even entitled to lie against Guatemala's interests. Let us respect her right, but I must point out that she is lying, and this is regrettable. Perhaps her lack of experience led her to make statements before international reporters to gain some popularity by virtue of the fact that Guatemala is recovering its international prestige on the question of human rights. We are going slowly but surely. Thank you very much.

[Unidentified reporter] "Mr Cerezo, one last question. The inhabitants of Esquipulas are saying that they are being deceived because the government is trying to conceal the poverty of the people of Esquipulas, or of Guatemala, now that the [meeting on] the Central American parliament is going to be held.

[Cerezo] "Actually, I do not know why inhabitants of Esquipulas are saying that. Some vendors there are quite upset because they are going to be (?relocated), but this decision was not made just because the presidents' meeting is going to be held there. The mayor of the city had already decided to ask them to move to another location. This is a matter they have to settle with the mayor.

"We are not trying to conceal anything. On the contrary, we are going to help the people by repairing the streets, improving their drinking water, and granting some credits to hotels so they can expand their capacity to receive tourists. There are always people who disagree. However, I would recommend that they look at the benefits we are going to give to the people so that next time they will ask why we decided to brant so many benefits to those people, rather than only bringing up the negative things.

[Reporter] "They claim that the vice president went there and made a proposal and has now gone back on his word.

[Cerezo] "We have not gone back on anything. On the contrary, as I said, they have to settle this matter with the mayor. The central government cannot get involved in all matters pertaining to the mayors' offices."

CEREZO: EFFORTS FOR NATIONAL AGREEMENT CONTINUE

PA151852 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo said this morning that efforts to reach a national agreement have not failed, because various national sectors continue to participate in talks with the government to carry out an economic and social restructuring program that was proposed to the people. President Cerezo added that for the past 4 weeks the government has been holding talks with various sectors in the country to find solutions to the crisis affecting Guatemala. The consultation document is a restructuring program presented by the government to the people; it contemplates a number of policies that not only seek to stabilize the current crisis in the near future, but to immediately start to reactivate and revalue our currency.

Talks held to date with various sectors have been beneficial. All of them have voiced concern over the current crisis; in one way or another all of them have voiced the need to make firm decisions that would really satisfy the people's needs. This shows that dialogue is not closing but opening up possibilities to tackle the crisis in a united way, not amid adverse conditions.

Finally, President Cerezo said that we will continue to hold talks this week. This afternoon the economic group will meet with private sector representatives while other sectors are awaiting government decisions. This shows that any suggestion or proposal is the result of a permanent dialogue that was not interrupted, as some want to make the public believe.

HONDURAS

CONGRESS LEADER COMMENTS ON U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

PA161608 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Apr 86

[By Mario Calix]

[Text] The Honduran Government's reaction to the U.S. air attack against Libya has not yet been made official. Acting Foreign Secretary Guillermo Caceres Pineda said that he knows nothing about that. Meanwhile, Congress President Carlos Montoya pointed out that a break in the peace equilibrium is a matter of concern:

[Begin recording] [Montoya] I can give you my personal opinion. We are affected by a break in the peace equilibrium anywhere. World countries are no longer aloof or isolated from each other; they are one entity. Whatever happens in another country affects us directly or indirectly. The most we can do is to maintain efforts to seek peace and stability agreement at international forums and hope that the confrontation in the Middle East will not be generalized.

[Calix] U.S. congressmen said that Honduras would be ashamed to learn about the destination of $27 million for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution; apparently, those funds were used to bribe Honduran officials. What can you say about that?

[Montoya] I do not think that is possible within this government. If they have any evidence, they should sue us. In fact, our diplomatic representatives should demand that they do so, because this tarnishes our image. [end recording]

FRG ECONOMIC MINISTER VIEWS AREA SITUATION

PA151822 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Apr 86 p 3

[Text] After meeting with President Jose Azcona Hoyo, Juergen Warnke, FRG economic cooperation minister, has said that he is convinced that the United States will not invade Nicaragua from Honduras. Warnke expressed sympathy for the Honduran process and criticized the Nicaraguan Government, urging it to negotiate with the opposition. The FRG minister said that his government has assisted the Honduran Government with 250 million marks, about $100 million, over the past few years.

Last year's trade balance was favorable to Honduras by 150 million marks, since the FRG imported 226 million marks and exported 69 million marks to Honduras. He said that not only the FRG but all EEC members are interested in increasing the levels of assistance and trade. Warnke expressed support for the Contadora negotiating process and noted that the arms buildup must be curbed to achieve peace. Referring to Nicaragua, he said that democratization and pluralism are needed in all countries in the area.

The FRG minister, who said that his visit to Honduras stems from an invitation from President Azcona, also stressed that his government feels that peaceful coexistence will be feasible when all points of the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America are complied with. He stressed that these points include the solution of border incidents, the support of subversion by some countries against their neighbors, a reduction in the levels of the arms buildup and number of foreign advisers, respect for human rights, and compliance with existing agreements. He said also that the Bonn government supports all Latin American efforts toward a peaceful settlement of conflicts in Central America. However, he said that the countries in the area must chart their own destinies.

Following the talks with President Azcona, I am convinced that a U.S. intervention in Nicaragua through Honduras is hypothetical, he said in answer to a question. In the opposite case -- if Nicaragua invades Honduras -- the FRG will demand an immediate withdrawal of the troops. Warnke warned that an essential point in the solution is also that "Nicaragua acknowledge that it cannot exclude itself from the Central American process of democratization."

In this regard, he proposed that the Sandinist government headed by Commander Daniel Ortega engage in dialogue with the armed opposition and the leaders of the six parties that are not participating in the government.

"I think that if the Nicaraguan Government were willing to engage in dialogue with the opposition, this would be a great breakthrough," he remarked. In referring to the Nicaraguan Government, the FRG minister always termed it a "junta." He remarked that the West German Government wants the East-West conflict to be removed from the Third World. He deplored the fact that it has been transferred to Central America. "Ways must be sought to remove this confrontation" from Central America, he noted, and at the same time counseled "patience and firmness" with regard to the work of the Contadora Group.

NICARAGUA

U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA CALLED 'ACT OF TERRORISM'

PA170344 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 3

[By Arqueles Morales]

[Text] What the whole world feared has happened. In an act of purest state terrorism, Ronald Reagan strafed Tripoli and Benghazi on Monday night, killing hundreds of civilians in an act of war that violated every aspect of international order that governs the relations between nations.

U.S. planes took off from Yankee bases in the UK, and without a declaration of war, attacked Libya in a manner that seems to be Reagan's personal style. We cannot forget that only a few weeks ago the Yankee fleet violated Libyan territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra and that its planes attacked "strategic targets."

On the very night of the crime, Reagan spoke to the nation and tried to justify his act of terrorism before the U.S. people by telling them, as is always done when another country is attacked, that it was a matter of "national security for the United States."

Several facts become noteworthy:

1. The U.S. Government has accused Libya, especially its leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, of being responsible for "acts of terrorism" in various parts of the world in an attempt to create a virtual anti-Libyan paranoia among the U.S. people.

2. Despite its repeated accusations, the U.S. Government has not been able to present a single piece of irrefutable proof, even though Libya has asked that this proof be made public.

3. The actions of the U.S. fleet in the Gulf of Sidra represented an authentic U.S. provocation when its ships violated waters that Libya claims as its territorial waters. In other words, the U.S. violated Libyan sovereignty, knowing that the Libyan combatants would respond strongly to this Yankee insult.

4. Ronald Reagan and his government clique planned this terrorist attack for a week. Among other publicly admitted objectives, this plan was aimed at assassinating Al-Qadhdhafi. This was clearly demonstrated with the criminal bombing of his home.

5. The United States has never kept its hate for the Liyba revolution, or Al-Qadhdhafi, a secret. It publicly spoke of "punishing" the Libyans just because they had made a victorious and anti-imperialist revolution.

6. The U.S. terrorist attack against Libya violates every norm of existing international law, destroys every possibility or resolving conflicts through negotiations, and makes the fascist method of the use of force by the powerful against the weak the order of the day.

7. The bombing of Libyan civilian targets is an extension of the bombing policy implemented in the 1960's by Lyndon B. Johnson when he tried "to make the people of Vietnam return to the Stone Age." But the results are well-documented facts; the Yankees were defeated by the brave people of Vietnam.

8. The incident that currently concerns us, as well as the rest of the world, also brings to surface the deep disregard that Reagan feels for his European allies. All the U.S. allies, except for its strategic ally, the United Kingdom are unhappy with the unleashing of a war of unpredictable consequences on the Mediterranean coast.

9. Reagan seems determined to present his people and the U.S. Legislative Branch as accessories after the fact by repeating his "feat" in Grenada where, only a few years ago, he massacred its defenseless population, not to mention his brazen intervention in the Lebanese domestic conflict.

Besides emphasizing these facts, it is necessary to reiterate that at this moment the biggest terrorist in the world is none other than Reagan's government. It bombs Lebanon, makes the U.S. Congress approve millions of dollars to support a mercenary army that is in violation of every law, attacks a country with which the United States has diplomatic relations, and a country against which a formal declaration of war has not been issued.

The world must be alerted against this new terrorist escalation of this new Hitler who, disregarding every law, sends his expeditionary forces thousands of kilometers from the United States, falsely claiming that he is trying to defend the border and security of the United States. World solidarity must turn to the brave Libyan people, and the world must actively condemn this act of vandalism carried out by the most powerful capitalist country in the world against a small country that is trying to forge its future.

Further Criticism

PA170251 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 Apr 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] As a way of punishing a government unilaterally described as terrorist, a criminal with a presidential sash hurled bombs on the homes of officials, apartment buildings, embassies, hotels, on all the homes within his reach where men, women, and children slept.

Dispatches from news agencies -- all of them Western and Christian -- bring heart-rending pictures of the horrible massacre ordered by the U.S. President. Reagan has not said a single word to prove Libya's involvement in the bombing of a disco where a U.S. sergeant was killed. Nevertheless, he lied publicly when he said the U.S. bombings only targeted military objectives.

If we look at all of his accusations against Nicaragua we could very well put together a proven rosary of lies, but in the end each of his falsehoods have meant destruction and death in our country. Why, then, can this psychopath get good people to discuss theories and practices marked by crime and genocide?

What he did to Tripoli would not be justified, even if his accusations were true. If he cannot prove any of his accusations, and his falsehoods are public and often admittedly false, what man who prides himself on respecting the human race can sleep in peace after justifying him?

Many sensible men and women asked themselves the same thing when Goebbels lied and Hitler ordered them to murder and exterminate. However, everything followed its normal course until 80 million human beings paid for the millions who closed their eyes.

Can there be anyone who can survive these reflections after the nightmare revived by Reagan and his lieutenants?

TIRADO SAYS U.S. MAY ORDER AIR ATTACKS ON NATION

PA170150 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0057 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Managua, 16 Apr (EFE) -- Sandinist Commander Victor Tirado did not discard the possibility that the United States may order air raids against Nicaragua like the one against Libya. Tirado, who acts as liaison between Sandinist Directorate and the workers and peasants, stated his concern that Washington may "aim its criminal actions" at Nicaraguan targets.

Addressing a meeting of Sandinist labor leaders, Tirado -- the only commander of the revolution of foreign (Mexican) ancestry -- recalled yesterday that in addition to Libya, the United States has marked Nicaragua and Cuba as "centers of international terrorism."

During a speech in Washington on Tuesday, Ronald Reagan reminded the House of Representatives that "the archterrorist (Al-Qadhdhafi) sent Nicaragua $400 million and an arsenal of weapons and advisers to bring the war to the United States." Reagan's statements were described as "dangerous" today by Carlos Tunnerman, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States.

The head of the Nicaraguan diplomatic mission in Washington also discussed the information that the United States is prepared to stop its support to the anti-Sandinists "the very same moment" that Nicaragua signs the Contadora document for peace. Tunnerman reasserted that Nicaragua cannot pledge to fulfill the agreements established in the document if the United States does not stop its aggression against that country and does not pledge to cease all aid to the "contras."

"In addition, a simple letter is not enough; the United States must sign a formal agreement with Latin America," Tunnerman said from Washington during a telephone interview. He added: "We must recall that many of the United States' pledges have not been adequately fulfilled."

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ON CONTRA AID DEBATES

PA151812 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1426 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to the United States Carlos Tunnerman Bernheim by unidentified reporter -- live]

[Text] [Reporter] We would like to know what the general atmosphere is in Washington regarding the immoral debates at the U.S. Congress on the $100 million for the Somozist contras? Go ahead Dr Tunnerman. Good morning.

[Tunnerman] Good morning. The debates on aid for the Nicaraguan contras will be resumed today, 15 April, in the afternoon. As we all know, Nicaragua has rejected these debates because they are intrinsically illegal and immoral. The debates this afternoon will begin by deciding the rules for the voting. Therefore, the first part of the debates this afternoon will be to discuss the rules that will be followed in the voting.

The Democrats, through Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill, have suggested or proposed that the voting be on an attachment or addendum to the supplementary 1986 budget law. In other words, the package of the aid for the contras, the famous $100 million requested by the Reagan administration, would be discussed as an amendment to the supplementary or complementary law for the 1986 budget.

The Republicans, and of course the administration, are against this legislative measure. They want the package discussed and approved as a separate law, because the complementary or supplementary law for the 1986 budget is a law the U.S. President has vowed to veto, as he disagrees with a number of points (?introduced) in that law. That is why they do not want the contra aid as an amendment to that law.

In addition, this law must go through various steps. It must also be sent to the Senate, and it would take several months before it could be [word indistinct]. Therefore, the administration here feels that with these measures, if the funds are approved, they would not be available for several months. So the first discussions and debates will be merely on a procedural and parliamentarian aspect, which is nonetheless important, from the point of view of the House of Representatives' internal policy.

Tomorrow the debates will be specifically on the subject of the $100 million in aid for the contras. The voting could take place late tomorrow, or in the first hours tomorrow evening. This is the situation at this time.

During the past few days, yesterday, and also today the U.S. people have expressed their opposition to the approval of this aid. It is interesting to mention here that in a survey published today by THE NEW YORK TIMES shows that the majority of U.S. people are still opposed to contra aid. THE NEW YORK TIMES reported that in a survey conducted by the CBS network -- one of the most important in this country -- only 25 percent of those interviewed were in favor of helping the contras. Only 25 percent were in favor, while 62 percent, the majority of those consulted, said that they disagreed with giving aid to the contras. Also, there have been demonstrations of civil resistance, protests in front of the White House, the Capitol, and in more than 100 cities in this country, which show that the U.S. people are against this package of aid for the contras.

[Reporter] Yesterday President Reagan warned that the actions at the House of Representatives are a subterfuge to delay the aid for the Somozist contras. What has been the reaction in the United States to this statement by President Reagan?

[Tunnerman] Well, the Democratic representatives have said that there is no such subterfuge, and that this is the procedure that has been proposed for the second vote, as when the first vote took place in March, Speaker of the House O'Neill said that there would be a second vote in April, and that this second vote would be in the form of an annex or amendment to the 1986 budget law. Apparently, they are going to maintain this position, and they are going to suggest or propose that the aid for the contras be in the form of an amendment to that law. We must also remember that there are other proposals or amendments that will also be discussed there.

One of these amendments proposed by Representative Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, rejects all forms of contra aid.

There are also other proposals [10-second break in transmission] Representative [Robert] Michel, the House minority leader, in other words the leader of the Republican minority, establishing $30 million for the so-called humanitarian, between quotation marks because there is no such humanitarian aid, and $70 million for military aid (?subject to) continuation of the negotiations within the Contadora Group's process.

There are other alternatives to be proposed by Congressman (?McCarthy) and other representatives who are considered to be of the Democratic Conservative line. These are the various alternatives to be discussed today and tomorrow.

[Reporter] Yesterday and today, Libya's capital, Tripoli, has been subject to a U.S. bombing. We see that the Reagan administration is stepping up its activities against anti-imperialist peoples. This is worrisome concerning the debates on the $100 million in the U.S. Congress. We see a very dangerous scheme, because some pro-U.S. news agencies have been conducting a campaign against Libya and Nicaragua with the $100 million issue and the attack on Libya. What has been the reaction in the United States on this?

[Tunnerman] Well, all the newspapers and the media are widely reporting on the incidents in Libya. These events will surely be reflected one way or another in the congressional debates.

I would like to add here that another point being widely debated is the impossibility of the administration's accuracy on the aid given to the contras; for example the $27 million previously approved under the false concept of humanitarian aid. There has been no accounting acceptable to the congressmen, and yesterday it was disclosed that even during the months in which Congress banned all forms of aid for the contras, the CIA continued to supply funds to the UNO, the so-called Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, which is the FDN's political facade. The CIA gave that organization several million dollars to open offices in several countries and to carry out a number of activities aimed at consolidating the political image of the UNO's directorate. This has already been reported at several congressional meetings and at press conferences at which several congressmen have been present, because the CIA gave indirect aid to the FDN through that organization's political directorate.

In addition to this, there have been charges of drug and arms trafficking in which the names of several of the main leaders of the UNO-FDN have been mentioned. All of these factors make many members of Congress doubt about the ultimate use given to the funds approved for the contras, as there are many suspicions that they have been wrongly used. All of this is going to have an influence on today's debates.

Of course, an important topic to be considered during the debates is the alternative represented in the Contadora Group. Nicaragua's transparent policy has been made public here: Nicaragua gives all its political support to the Contadora Group's process, Nicaragua has announced that it is ready to resume the negotiations on the two points pending in the Contadora act, and we are also ready to sign the Contadora act, once the pending points have been properly approved after their (?discussion), as long as the U.S. attacks against Nicaragua have stopped. This Nicaraguan position has been clearly presented in the U.S. media, it has also been conveyed to the members of the U.S. Congress after President Commander Daniel Ortega made it public Saturday morning. So, this element is also being carefully considered during the debates, as for many congressmen, Contadora is the alternative for the solution of the Central American conflicts, it is the Latin American alternative, the civilized alternative, which could bring real and stable peace in Central America. It is hoped that this alternative will prevail during those debates.

[Reporter] Forgive me for reiterating my question. What is expected to happen today at the U.S. House of Representatives, considering that the representatives themselves are introducing a bill or amendment linking the proposed aid for the contras to a basic law, to which the White House is opposed? Therefore, what are the prospects given in the U.S. press and political circles regarding today's debates at the House of Representatives?

[Tunnerman] Well, the prospects in the media are varied. For instance, THE WASHINGTON POST editorials maintain that the alternative that must prevail is support for a solution through the Contadora process.

This is the same opinion expressed in THE NEW YORK TIMES and other prestigious media. However, they all agree that the Reagan administration now has more possibilities of obtaining some kind of aid for the contras. It is known that the Nicaraguan position is clear in this sense, as we maintain that the possibility of giving this aid should not even be discussed, as we consider the debates themselves (?intrinsically) illegal and immoral. Worse yet would be the approval of any form of aid. Any form of aid, and this has not only been said by Nicaragua but also by Latin America through the Contadora Group, and was recently clearly stated by the Uruguayan and Peruvian presidents, any form of aid approved by the U.S. Congress for the contras would be an obstacle for the Contadora Group's process. This must be very clear in the minds of the U.S. congressmen. However, the perspectives are that Reagan will possibly obtain some kind of aid during these debates. However, if this aid is linked to the 1986 budget law, it will not be available until after several months. For this reason, the administration is opposed to that, and wants the aid to be debated on as a separate law.

[Reporter] We do not want to take too much of your time. We imagine that some U.S. media, particularly the television networks and the major newspapers, will be interested in obtaining first-hand information from you. How is the Nicaraguan position currently portrayed in the U.S. media?

[Tunnerman] Well, we have done everything possible to have the Nicaraguan position portrayed in the media. The news conference granted by Commander Daniel Ortega Saturday morning was widely covered in the U.S. media, although it was on a weekend. However, the media has been made aware of the importance of Nicaragua's communique, and of the fact that Nicaragua has decided to inform the Contadora Group of its willingness to immediately resume the negotiations on the pending points on the act, which are the points concerning the control and reduction of weapons, and the military maneuvers. Also, that our government is willing to sign the document as soon as these two points are covered and the U.S. stops its attacks.

Nicaragua's position is portrayed in the media, although of course the administration proportionally has more access to the media. As you can understand, they have more possibilities and access to the media, and the administration has constantly presented its viewpoint. There have also been television campaigns. However, U.S. organizations aware of the danger implied in the aid for the contras have also placed (?advertisements) on U.S. television warning that voting in favor of the contras is voting in favor of blood and war.

Even this morning, THE WASHINGTON... [corrects himself] THE NEW YORK TIMES carries a good editorial written by Tom Withers, one of the most prominent columnists in this country, in which he clearly says that voting in favor of the contras is voting for additional bloodshed. So there is a broad debate, and the topic has divided the U.S. public opinion.

Most important is what I mentioned before, what the surveys have revealed on what the U.S. people think. As I mentioned previously, only 25 percent of those surveyed said they agreed with the aid for the contras. This figure shows that despite the large campaign and the administration's manipulation of the media, it has not been able to convince the U.S. people of the benefits of granting aid to the contras. The U.S. people seem to be very sensible about this topic, and they feel that the aid for the contras will also harm the U.S. people.

[Reporter] We thank Ambassador Carlos Tunnerman Bernheim.

To end this interview, we would like to ask you, based on the outlook of the congressional debates, what would be your message as ambassador, to the Nicaraguan people?

[Tunnerman] Well, my message would be to always be alert. We know that our revolution depends on our people's will, and that even if the $100 million in aid for the contras is approved, the contras will not destroy our revolution, as our revolution has the majority support of our people, who are determined to fight, weapons in hand, against any eventuality and that we are strategically capable of defeating the counterrevolution. We must remain alert and ready to repel any form of aggression against our country.

[Reporter] Thank you, Ambassador to the United States, for this exclusive interview.

FSLN OFFICIAL ON HOUSE REJECTION OF CONTRA AID

PA170107 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0039 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Managua, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A Sandinist leader stated today that the U.S. House of Representatives has established a deadline "to save the counterrevolution" by cancelling the debate concerning the request for $100 million to the contras. Today the U.S. Congress rejected the immediate delivery of $100 million for the groups fighting against the regime in Managua.

Carlos Fernando Chamorro, head of the FSLN's Agitation and Propaganda Department (DAP), said today that no immediate results have been achieved concerning aid to the contras, but indicated that the discussion "will continue." Chamorro, who is also a member of the Sandinist Assembly, warned that the situation is still "threatening and dangerous" for the Nicaraguan people. He added that the delay concerning the approval of funds does not represent "a respite for Nicaragua."

"A deadline has been set to save the counterrevolution and discuss how they will become more involved in the war, which they are losing," Chamorro said. He said that the decision of Reagan and the U.S. Congress "to step up the war against Nicaragua" is really what is at stake. Chamorro, who is director of the official newspaper BARRICADA, said that Washington will continue to discuss the involvement of U.S. advisers to direct the war itself. The Sandinist leader added that they now want to turn Nicaragua "into a target for the U.S. Government's terrorist attacks."

Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, and other cities in the country were today the site of large anti-U.S. demonstrations to "reject" the air raids against Libya and the request for more aid to the anti-Sandinists.

BRIEFS

FOOD, CLOTHING DONATIONS -- Corinto -- At the present time, 680 tons of food and clothing sent by the people of China [not further identified], as a donation to the Nicaraguan revolution, are in the port of Corinto. The donation, which was sent to the Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Ministry, includes: jars of milk, canned meat, chocolates, instant soup, and clothing. A donation from Bulgaria is also ready for immediate distribution. It includes 400 tons of canned food, 30 tons of detergent, 62 tons of hardware, 24 tons of thread and 10 tons of clothing and toys. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Apr 86 p 1-B PA]

MORE COMMENTARY, REPORTAGE ON U.S.-LIBYAN CLASH

International 'Rejection'

FL161218 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The heads of state and government and the people of numerous countries of the world have expressed in many ways their indignation over the U.S. Government's brutal policy of state terrorism against Libya. The unanimous rejection of the international community over the criminal action against the Libyan people and of the terrorist leader who ordered it from Washington -- cynically alleging that it was directed against military targets -- reaches extraordinary dimensions of a world which truly wants peace and solid international security.

The Cuban Government has clearly established its position over the pirate action which once more shows the Reagan government's absolute contempt for international laws and peaceful coexistance between states, as well as the absence of minimum respect for the moral principles which all governments should be based on. A Cuban Government statement published in its entirety on GRANMA's front page, indicates that the unmistakable absence of a military action against the United States makes useless Reagan's efforts to find legal support for his sinister aggression. It ends saying that the Government of the Republic of Cuba, as it energetically condemns the aggression of the Reagan administration against Libya, expresses its determined solidarity with the Libyan people and its leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and salutes the firmness they have shown in facing the savagery of U.S. leaders.

While last night the Libyan Government accused the U.S. during the U.N. Security Council emergency meeting of the barbarian and savage attacks against its territory -- which were not made in self-defense, but to attack civilian and foreign residents in that north African country -- the Reagan government insisted that it will continue to strike what Reagan calls terrorism. Recent Libyan radio reports indicated that the top leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, had received numerous messages of solidarity from leaders of many countries and that he had talked over the phone with Sudanese President General Siwar al-Dhahab'.

Region's Criticism Summarized

PA161402 Havana International Service in Spanish 1204 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] The U.S. bombings against the Libyan capital and cities of Tripoli and Benghazi continue to be the target of criticism from various sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean. In Mexico City the Federation of Latin American Journalists condemned the aggression and noted that this action increases the threat of U.S. intervention in Central America.

In Venezuela, acting Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo voiced his concern over the U.S. attack against Libya and advocated strengthening peace throughout the world. The Argentine Intransigent Party, many Brazilian congressmen, Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias, and the opposition political groups of Mexico, Dominica, and Saint Lucia also criticized the U.S. aggression against Libya.

Rallies Condemn U.S.

FL161900 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Numerous Cuban organizations of the masses as well as social organizations have joined the clamor of the people during the last few hours to express their most vigorous condemnation for the sly, brutal, and treacherous aggression perpetrated by the Yankee imperialists against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Thousands of students, workers, members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution and of the Federation of Cuban Women, as well as the people in general, have also condemned the attack against that country during a militant rally held at the Ignacio Agramonte Plaza at Havana University.

Statement to Nonaligned Group

FL162056 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1803 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Last-minute report: The aggression against Libya confirms that Washington is the international headquarters of state terrorism against the emancipated states and makes evident the aggressive character of the Atlantic alliance. This denouncement was formulated today by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca at the plenum of the meeting of foreign ministers of the Coordination Bureau that is preparing the eighth summit of the Nonaligned Movement, which will be held this coming September in Harare, Zimbabwe. Malmierca said that the attack on Libya, which is a member of the Nonaligned Movement, the OAU, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference, and the United Nations, is an expression of American savagery. It has also made evident the aggressive character of the ties to NATO, because one of NATO's members, Great Britain, offered the use of bases in its territory so the airplanes that bombed the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi could use them to launch their attacks.

Holguin Ceremony Condemns U.S.

FL162154 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2057 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Excerpt] A demonstration of repudiation against the U.S. action against Libya was held today in Holguin during the ceremony promoting officials, reservists, and militia members in honor of the anniversary of the proclamation of the socialist character of the revolution and the Day of the Militia. Our people condemn the Yankee escalation and support the Libyan people, affirmed Lester Guzman, first secretary of the party in Holguin. This was supported by the troops, who raised their clenched fists in response.

Labor, Student Groups Rally

PA170014 Havana International Service in Spanish 2350 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Mass organizations in Havana today condemned the military attack ordered by the U.S. Government against Libya at a rally at the Ignacio Ramon Agramonte field at the University of Havana. Leaders of women's, labor, and student groups and Committees for the Defense of the Revolution condemned the attack and said that the U.S. Government is the real terrorist against freedom-loving peoples.

Libyan Diplomat on Solidarity

PA160046 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] The head of the Libyan People's Bureau [in Havana] Muhammad 'Ali al-Ajili highlighted the Cuban firm stance of solidarity regarding the U.S. military aggression against his country. The attitude of the Cuban authorities and people is nothing new because they have always been on our side during difficult times, Muhammad 'Ali al-Ajili said.

TANA Rejects 'Aggression'

PA160214 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Statements by Guillermo Toriello, president of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] The international presidency of the TANA hereby voices its most vigorous repudiation and condemnation of the criminal and cowardly aggression executed by the fascist government of the United States against the friendly people and government of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The U.S. Government's arrogance and its alleged world hegemony have led it to regard itself as the master of the world and absolutely dismiss the validity of international law and replace it with the use and abuse of brute force. Its policy of outrageous and unjustifiable armed aggressions against weak countries, such a Grenada and Nicaragua, and its shameless alliance with the mercenaries and murderers that form the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] gangs of bandits who operate against Angola and also the U.S. alliance with the contras in Nicaragua have made it worthy of being described as a champion of state terrorism on an international scale. In many instances, TANA has appealed to the U.S. people -- just as they opposed the unfair Vietnam war -- to prevent the Reagan government from continuing with this escalation of crimes against weak countries that are struggling for thieir just revolutionary processes. It is high time for the U.S. people to realize that if they do not stop their government's genocidal and brutal policy, the wrath of the peoples of the world will hold it responsible of complicity and this government will be subjected to all kinds of terrible reprisals.

In this dramatic hour of U.S. barbarism, TANA urgently appeals to all its chapters and also all the democratic, progressive and revolutionary forces of our America to express their repudiation of the cowardly and crafty attack against Libya and oppose to U.S. Congress' approving the $100 million that Reagan plans to give the Somozist mercenaries and murderers. Finally, TANA appeals to these forces to form, with other peoples of the world, a great front of struggle against Washington to stop its insane policy of alleged world dominance.

3d Attack 'False Alarm'

FL161408 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Last night the sound of antiaircraft artillery was heard but no plane was seen flying over Tripoli and everything appears to indicate that there has been a false alarm, according to PRENSA LATINA reports. The same source indicated that the U.S. Administration acknowledged that one of the 18 F-111 planes which participated in the Libya bombing is still missing and that it was manned by Puerto Rican pilot Fernando Ribas and weapons officer Paul Lorence.

New Bomb Attack Reported

FL170105 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Cables received this afternoon indicate that three Libyan cities, Tripoli, (Taruna), and (Willsfield), were attacked by U.S. warplanes in what is being considered the fourth aggression against that north African country in the past 2 days. A dispatch from the Libyan JANA agency heard in Algeria makes no mention of the number of victims but reports that residential neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, and radio stations were again selected for attack by the U.S. Air Force. The Libyan agency asserts that the international airport of Tripoli was hit again by a second bombing attack and that four attacking aircraft were shot down by Libyan antiaircraft forces. A few hours earlier Libya had announced that air communications were open again, following the repair of the damages caused by the first bombing attack by the United States.

In a brief dispatch, the Soviet news agency TASS reported that numerous victims have been reported as the result of the new U.S. air attack on Libya. At 1400 Libyan time, Libyan antiaircraft artillery opened fire against two SR-71 U.S. spy aircraft that overflew the airspace of the Libyan capital. Radio Tripoli said that the two aircraft flew rapidly toward the Mediterranean in search of the America and Coral Sea aircraft carriers of the U.S. 67th Fleet.

Within the framework of the brutal U.S. terrorist aggression of the U.S. Government against Libya, the Voice of America broadcast a special program in which it called for those opposed to the Libyan Government to overthrow Colonel Mu'ammar al-Quadhdhafi.

NICARAGUA'S D'ESCOTO ON POSSIBLE U.S. ATTACK

PA160250 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said in New Delhi that he does not rule out the possibility of a U.S. attack against his country like the one carried out early this morning against Libya. During a news conference held before the meeting of the foreign ministers of the nonalighed countries, D'Escoto said that the next 2 days will be decisive for his country depending on whether the U.S. Congress approves, or rejects, the $100 million President Reagan has requested to help the counterrevolutionary groups. D'Escoto pointed out that the recent U.S. aggression against Libya represents a serious danger for world peace, however, he added: We are convinced that this provocation will find a solid response on the part of the Nonaligned Movement.

U.S. HOUSE VOTE ON AID TO CONTRAS REPORTED

FL162336 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] This afternoon, the U.S. House of Representatives has rejected by an overwhelming majority of 361 votes to 66 President Reagan's request for military aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. There were seven abstentions. The vote was based on the amendment presented by the Democratic representative from Indiana, Lee Hamilton, and immediately killed the bill by which Reagan had requested $100 million to rearm and equip the contras.

By virtue of the decision of the lower house, the granting of $27 million to rehabilitate Nicaraguan refugees who are victims of the fighting between the anti-Sandinists and the Nicaraguan People's Army is authorized. Last month, the House of Representatives also killed the request for military and logistical aid by a margin of 12 votes.

CULTURE MINISTER ON 'VIETNAMIZATION' IN REGION

FL161612 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0450 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Rome, 15 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart, who is attending the 17th Italian Communist Party (PCI) Congress, has said that a Vietnamization process has begun in Central America which can be more painful for the United States than Nicaragua. The Cuban minister added that during the past 25 years, since the invasion of Vietnam, the United States has not learned its lesson or won any battles.

Hart, who is also a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, said that if the United States intervenes in Nicaragua, where there is a process in progress and the people are united, this could create a flare-up of immense proportions. The Cuban minister questioned the results that could occur from the United States sending military advisers to Central America which is creating conditions for large domestic conflicts.

Hart added that Reagan should not be concerned about Nicaragua. He should be concerned about Latin America, about the entire continent which cannot be invaded, Hart said.

In reference to the foreign debt, the minister said a very difficult situation is being created that could incite a revolution that no one will be able to hold back. He said that if Reagan keeps applying pressure by using the foreign debt, he will go down in history as the U.S. president who caused the great revolutions of the region. Finally, Hart said Cuba supports the actions of the Contadora Group and the Nicaraguan Government's decisions and considers that a diplomatic solution to the problem is possible.

U.S. MANEUVERS IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN VIEWED

PA160027 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The report that between 28 April and 11 May the "Ocean Venture 86" military maneuvers will take place in the eastern Caribbean, emphasizes the war-like atmosphere that the United States would like to establish in this geographical area, among many other areas of the planet. Dissatisfied with the war exercises carried out in the past few years in Central America, the Caribbean, and other areas, the U.S. high command and President Ronald Reagan are trying to spread the anxiety these war exercises generate every time they are carried out. Public opinion has just been informed and is concerned over the provocative war exercises by U.S. ships and airplanes on the Libyan coasts, aimed at increasing friction with that north African country, and finding an excuse to invade it.

In light of these attempts to play with fire, the White House is now trying to carry out new simulated invasions in the eastern Caribbean with the undesirable presence of 20,000 U.S. troops along with groups of militarymen from the mini-states in that geographical region.

Once again the puppet Grenadian Government will lend itself to these war exercises, which has become a tradition ever since invading U.S. troops occupied that island in October 1983 and later installed -- through dubious elections -- the unconditional Herbert Blaize.

In addition to the assualt on Grenada, "Ocean Venture 86" includes amphibious disembarkations on the coast of North Carolina and on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, an unjustified display of force that, among other things, will result in enormous expense in keeping with the White House resident's arms buildup fever. It is a joke on the poverty and unemployment that exists in the eastern Caribbean to dedicate so much money to the militarization of a zone that needs economic aid from the industrialized countries.

"Ocean Venture 86" will follow other, no less aggressive exercises such as the recent ones in Antigua and Barbuda, and in St Lucia called "Upward Key" and "Exotic Palm." The island of Antigua is currently the site of feverish military construction because Prime Minister Vere Bird has allowed Washington to install a base there for war training. The United States will invest $10 million to broaden an air-sea and satellite tracking station that has been on the island for several years.

Logically, many Caribbean personalities watch in a stupor as the United States makes a warmongering display in the zone, and some of them such as St Vincent Prime Minister James Mitchell have said that the military maneuvers are a waste of time that turns attention away from the economic problem. The "Ocean Venture 86" war exercises should be viewed as another Reagan administration attempt to exert pressure in different parts of the world in order to secure world supremacy to the detriment of the sovereignty of the small Third World states.

RAUL CASTRO MARKS 'BAY OF PIGS VICTORY'

FL161255 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, FAR minister and party Central Committee second secretary, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs victory and Militia Day has sent warm congratulations and revolutionary greetings to the heroic participants of the combat that gave imperialism its first great defeat and consolidated the presence of socialism in Latin America.

Raul's letter says: I extend to all past and present combatants the acknowledgement of the FAR and of all the people that they are firm defenders of the fatherland and revolution.

The political event and military ceremony on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of the revolution's socialist nature and the militiaman day will be held approximately within an hour, at 8 in the morning, at Havana's FAR Commander Camilo Cienfuegos Artillery School. During the ceremony, numerous militiamen and reservists will be promoted, and artists, writers, and journalist who have contributed with their work to the people's patriotic military and internationalist education will be honored.

ECUADOR

ENERGY MINISTER OPPOSES EMBARGO AGAINST U.S.

PA151603 Paris AFP in Spanish 1533 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Geneva, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Ecuadoran Energy and Mines Minister Javier Espinosa Teran today declared himself opposed to "any idea of an oil embargo" against the United States after a call to that effect by Libyan Petroleum Secretary Fawzi Al-Shakshuki to the Arab countries.

"The Libyan oil installations have not been damaged," the petroleum secretary told several reporters present here at the opening of the extraordinary OPEC ministerial meeting.

On his part, Qatar Finance and Petrolum Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani declared that the embargo requested by Libya pertains to the Arab League.

GUYANA

RIGHT-WING POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZED IN U.S.

FL150308 Bridgetown CANA in English 2104 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Georgetown, April 14, CANA -- A right-wing political party for Guyanese has been formed in the United States, according to THE MIRROR newspaper, organ of the Marxist People's Progressive Party. This entity is reportedly being assembled in the U.S., and is to be transplanted into Guyana, the paper said. The was named as the United Republican Party of Guyana. [sentenced as received]

THE MIRROR said it was proposing a Western democracy and an economy based on agriculture, industry, commerce, and tourism with safeguards in its constitution for foreign investors. THE MIRROR said the new party was led by Brooklyn-based Robert Gangadeen.

SURINAME

PRIME MINISTER MEETS U.S., LIBYAN AMBASSADORS

FL162012 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Prime Minister Udenhout yesterday informed the ambassadors of the United States of North America and Libya about our government's concern regarding the escalation of the conflict between the two states. Udenhout invited the ambassadors after the U.S. attacked Libya last Monday. During this attack, a few died and several others were wounded. According to Prime Minister Udenhout, the Surinamese Government will do everything possible to help solve the problem in a peaceful way.